少年マガジン
週刊
ホップ・ステップ・マガジン！ダメだコリャ！
WEEKLY
NO.49

超クライマックス!!
いまだセリフなし!!
「フルーティ八年組」

あっち行け禁止!
ケっぱミノ大連載
「林田とララバイ」

「とんだベータ
「タフネス神山」
「愛しのブータン」
「ラブのな」

キミの素顔が見たい！
今週のグラビアはマスクド竹之内！

感動の最終回！ま、いいか！
「あしたゴリラになあれ」

人気御礼一拳2話
「1,2の山口ノボル」

やる気のなさ最高潮!! 巻頭カラーもやる気なし!!
魁!! クロマティ高校 04
番外編 野中英次
「前田ブルース」

ダイナマイトしょんぼり新連載!!
オレは間違ってないのに!!

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CHAPTER SEVENTY-ONE: **THE "BAD MAN RETURNS" THEME**

NO ONE IS MORE RESPECTED, AND WHEN IT COMES TO FIGHTING ABILITY, NO ONE CAN HOLD A CANDLE TO ME. ANYWAY, I CAN'T GO INTO DETAILS RIGHT NOW, BUT AFTER WANDERING AROUND AMERICA FOR A WHILE, I'VE FINALLY MADE IT BACK TO JAPAN.
MY NAME IS YUTAKA TAKENOUCHI. I'M THE BOSS OF THE 1ST YEARS AT CROMARTIE HIGH.
THE ONLY THING IS...

Here
IT ENDED UP BEING THE DAY OF OUR SCHOOL FIELD TRIP...AGAIN!
CONSIDERING HOW EASILY I GET MOTION SICK, THIS HAS GOTTA BE THEIR WAY OF TRYIN' TO PICK A FIGHT WITH ME!
HOW MANY FRICKIN' SCHOOL TRIPS IS IT GONNA TAKE TO SATISFY THESE GUYS?!
HEY, THERE'S TWO OF 'EM.
QUIT STARING, WILL YA?! HE LOOKS MAD AS HELL!
ARE THE OLD DAYS OF TERROR GONNA START UP AGAIN?
SO TAKE-NOUCHI'S FINALLY COME BACK.

WHY DOES HE GET SO PISSED EVERY TIME WE GO ON A TRIP ANYWAY?
THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULDN'T BE STARIN' AT HIM!
WHAT THE HELL KINDA FACE IS THAT?! I TELL YA, HE'S A DEVIL IN HUMAN SKIN!
I... I FEEL SICK.
URP... I CAN FEEL IT RISING IN MY THROAT.
WHAT?! YOU MEAN THIS GUY'S A FAKE?
Y-YOU FIGURED IT OUT?
DAMMIT! AND I WAS SO RELIEVED WHEN HE GOT REPLACED WITH THAT IMPOSTER!
ANTI-NAUSEA MEDICINE: STANDING BY.
PLASTIC BAG: CHECK.
MAN, THIS MOTION SICKNESS IS TERRIBLE... BUT I CAN'T LET THE OTHERS FIND OUT ABOUT IT. I'D BETTER DO MY FINAL CHECK NOW, WHILE I STILL CAN.
NOW ALL I GOTTA DO IS LET IN SOME FRESH AIR, AND...
OF COURSE, BOXED LUNCHES ARE TOTALLY OFF-LIMITS.

I-IT WON'T OPEN!
HUH?
IT LOOKS LIKE RIDING IN A VEHICLE I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HAS REALLY UNSETTLED ME. I CAN FEEL MYSELF FALTERING... THIS IS THE END!
HOW CARELESS OF ME NOT TO HAVE CONSIDERED THAT.
I GET IT. THE WINDOWS DON'T OPEN ON THE BULLET TRAIN...
what's he doin'?
THE REASON I'M SO ANXIOUS IS THAT I'M THINKING ABOUT RIDING IN A VEHICLE!
THAT'S IT!
NO! GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF! THINK...
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS IMAGINE I'M IN MY HOUSE INSTEAD!
ALRIGHT, THEN!

CRAP! THOSE GUYS ARE THE REAL THING! WE WOULDN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST 'EM!
WHO DO THOSE STINKIN' YAKUZA THINK THEY ARE?!
YOU'VE GOT SOME BALLS TRYIN' TO MESS WITH US! LITTLE BOYS SHOULD LEARN TO ACT NICE, OR THEY'S LIABLE TO GET PUNISHED!
WELL, NOW. I THINK I'LL JUST TAKE A BATH.
スッ
SWP
I'M IN MY HOUSE. I'M IN MY HOUSE. I'M IN MY HOUSE. I'M IN MY HOUSE. I'M IN MY HOUSE...
HEH. YOU WANT SOME, KID?
EVEN YOU SHOULD STEER CLEAR OF THEM!
STOP IT, TAKENO-UCHI! THOSE GUYS ARE TOO MUCH!

ARE YOU SERIOUS? YOU'RE GONNA FIGHT 'EM?!
TAKENO-UCHI!
HE'S FOLDIN' HIS CLOTHES.
. . . . . .
AHH. THE WATER'S JUST RIGHT.
HE SAT DOWN.
THERE WE GO.
HEY, HE PUT HIS CLOTHES BACK ON.
NOW THEN...
YOU TRYIN' TO MAKE US LOOK STUPID OR SOME-THING?!
WHAT THE HELL DO YA THINK YER DOIN'?

. . . . . .
DAMMIT, THAT'S RIGHT! I CAN'T EAT ANYTHING!

I GUESS I'LL START DINNER. WHAT SIDE DISHES SHOULD I MAKE?

I'LL JUST HAVE TO USE MY WILLPOWER TO FORCE THE IDEAS OF "SICKNESS" AND "PUKING" COMPLETELY OUT OF MY HEAD!

. . . . . .
He's trem-bling!

URGH... CRAP! THINKING ABOUT FOOD BROUGHT BACK MY MOTION SICKNESS. IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING, I'M GONNA PUKE!

. . . . . .

FORGET. FORGET. FORGET. FORGET. FORGET...

THAT'S IT. FOCUS YOUR MIND...

I COMPLETELY ERASED THE WORD "PUKE" FROM MY MIND!

ALRIGHT! I FORGOT!

BLERGGH!
SORRY 'BOUT THAT. I GET MOTION SICK PRETTY EASILY.
BWSSH
SOMEBODY STOP HIM!
HE BEAT THOSE YAKUZA GUYS TO A PULP! N-NOW HE'S COMIN' THIS WAY!
WHOA! TAKENOUCHI'S GOIN' ON A RAMPAGE!

HE SEEMS HEALTHY ENOUGH TO ME...

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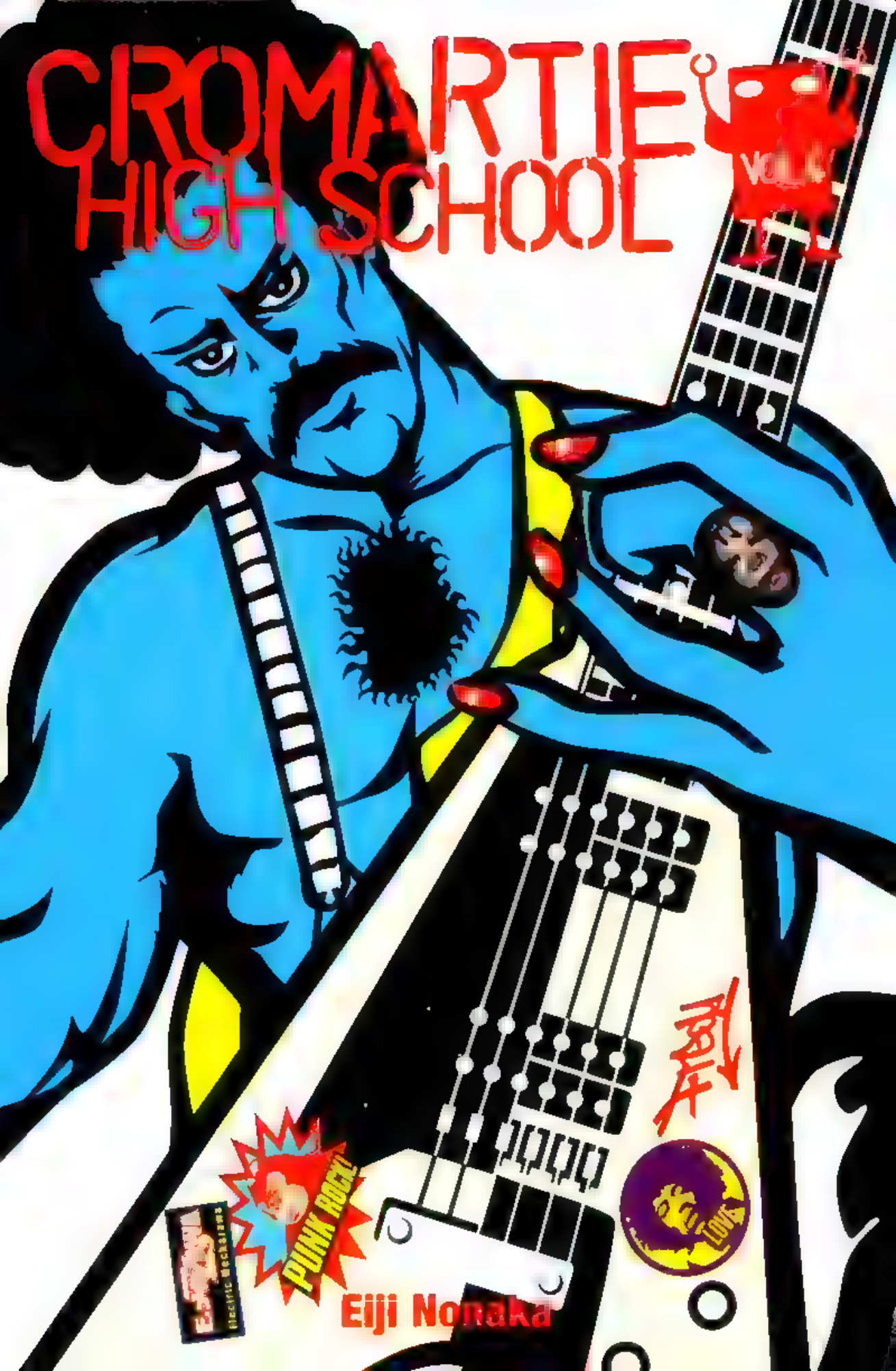
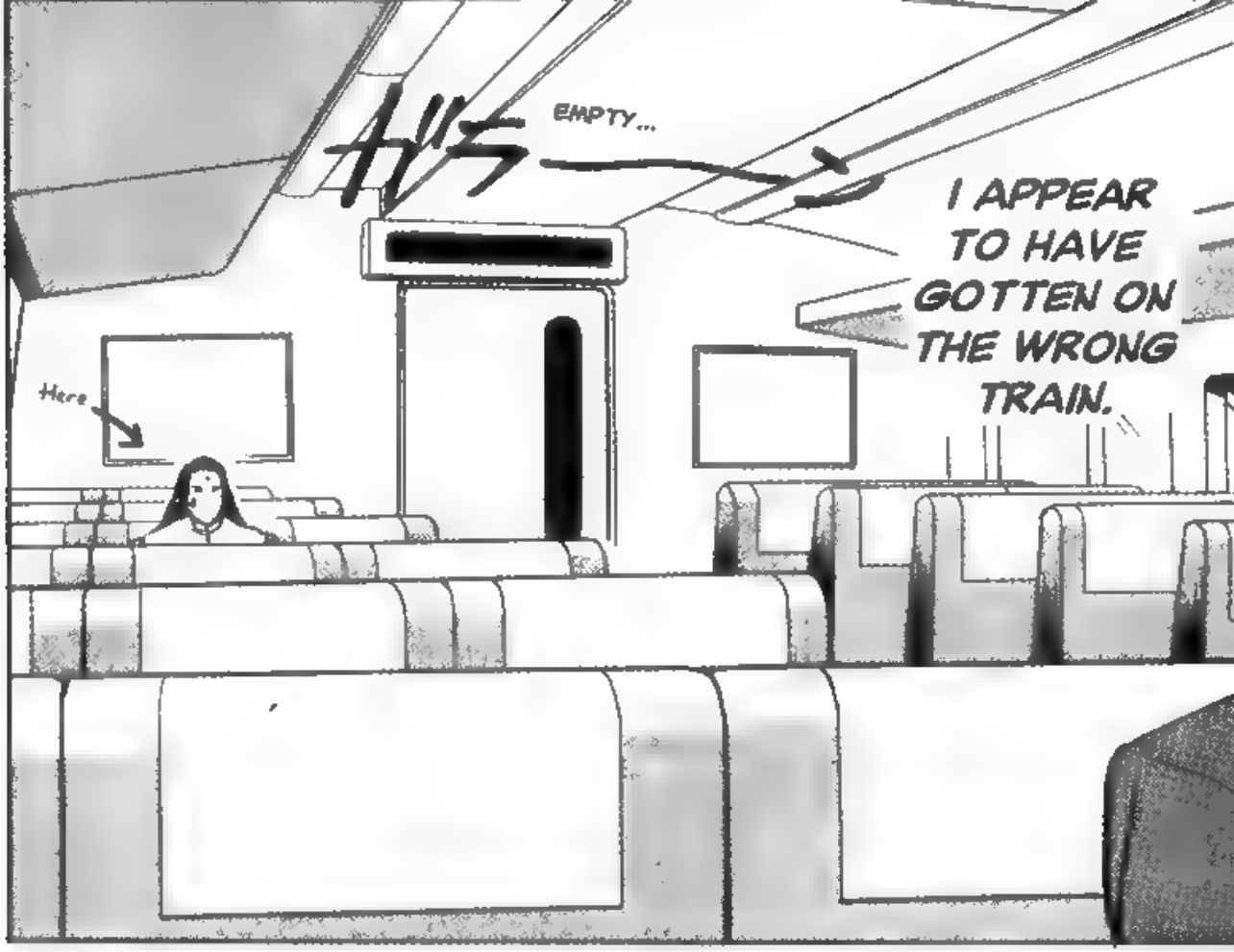
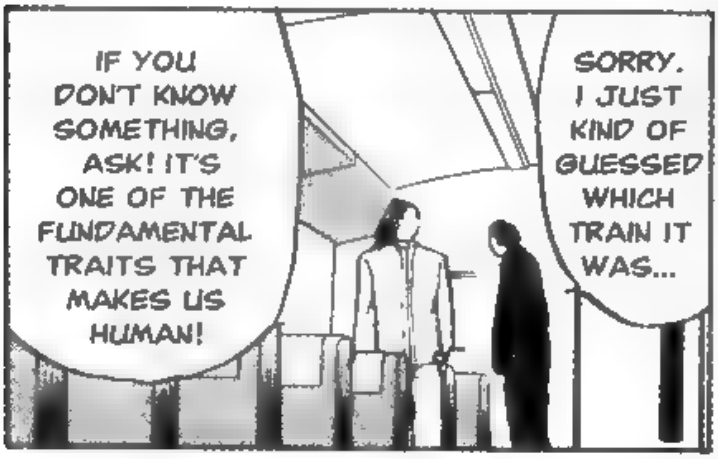

CROMARTIE
HIGH SCHOOL
VOL. 1
PUNK ROCK!
Eiji Nonaka

CHAPTER SEVENTY-TWO: **TRAIN, TRAIN**

BWSSH
MY NAME IS TAKESHI HOKUTO. IN ADDITION TO BEING HEIR TO JAPAN'S FOREMOST ZAIBATSU CONGLOMERATE, I AM A WORLD-CLASS MARTIAL ARTIST AND SCHOLAR PAR EXCELLENCE.
ONE DAY, I WILL RULE UNCHALLENGED OVER THE PIGS OF THE LOWER CLASSES. MY FIRST STEP TOWARD THIS AMBITION HAS BEEN TO USE MY FATHER'S POLITICAL POWER TO ESTABLISH DOMINION OVER ALL THE HIGH SCHOOLS IN JAPAN... HOWEVER, I REMAIN UNABLE TO BRING CROMARTIE UNDER MY CONTROL.


EMPTY...
I APPEAR TO HAVE GOTTEN ON THE WRONG TRAIN.
Here


IF YOU DON'T KNOW SOMETHING, ASK! IT'S ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL TRAITS THAT MAKES US HUMAN!
SORRY. I JUST KIND OF GUESSED WHICH TRAIN IT WAS...

WHAT'S MORE, I'M STUCK WITH THIS IDIOT.
I BOUGHT YOU SOME GREEN TEA, HOKUTO-SAN.

WITH NO ONE AROUND TO INTERFERE, I CAN USE THIS TIME TO SIT DOWN AND FORMULATE A PLAN TO BRING CROMARTIE UNDER MY CONTROL. YES, PERHAPS THIS OPPORTUNITY WAS PROVIDED BY GOD HIMSELF!
NO MATTER.

. . . . . .
THAT'S RIGHT! WITH THOSE FOOLS GALLIVANTING AROUND ON THEIR CLASS TRIP, WE CAN SPEAK FREELY ABOUT YOUR AMBITION OF CONQUERING ALL JAPAN! WHAT INDESCRIBABLE DELIGHT!
Maeda
. . . . . .
HA HA HA!
WA HA HA!
WHAT'S MORE, THEY'RE HAVING SOME PAINFULLY IDIOTIC DISCUSSION ABOUT CONQUERING JAPAN OR SOMETHING.
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD! NOT ONLY DID I GET ON THE WRONG TRAIN, I HAD TO CHOOSE THE SAME CAR AS THOSE GUYS.
OF COURSE, WHAT YOU'LL REALLY NEED ARE COLLEAGUES THAT YOU CAN RELY ON. I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT I GET THE FEELING THAT EVER SINCE WE CAME TO THIS SCHOOL, WE'VE BECOME MORE ALIENATED THAN EVER.
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY HAVEN'T NOTICED ME. IF I BUTTED IN NOW, IT WOULD BE PRETTY AWKWARD... I'LL JUST LEAVE THEM ALONE.

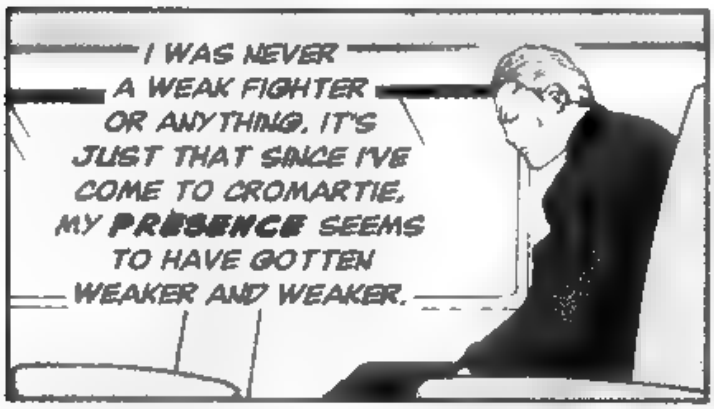
WHAT?! YOU DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT AND DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT IT?!
I AM AWARE OF THAT. OH, I FORGOT TO TELL YOU, BUT I JOINED THE BASEBALL CLUB IN ORDER TO MEET SOME MORE PEOPLE.
IT'S STILL A SHOCK, THOUGH. IT'S LIKE YOU'RE TREATING ME AS IF I WERE A NUISANCE...
"The Hokuto Corps"?!
DO NOT MISUNDERSTAND: I DID IT TO MAKE CONTACTS, NOTHING MORE. EVENTUALLY, THEY WILL FORM THE BASIS OF THE HOKUTO CORPS.
SO YOU'RE SHUTTING ME OUT, IS THAT IT?
WHY? BECAUSE...
YES, I DO! I PROBABLY LIKE IT MORE THAN YOU, TOO! WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK ME TO JOIN WITH YOU?!
PETULANT, AREN'T YOU? DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW TO PLAY BASEBALL?
SHUT UP, ALREADY.
YOU COULD'VE JUST ASKED!
I DON'T KNOW YOUR NAME.

YOU STILL DON'T KNOW?

CHAPTER SEVENTY THREE: **TRAIN KEPT A-ROLLING**

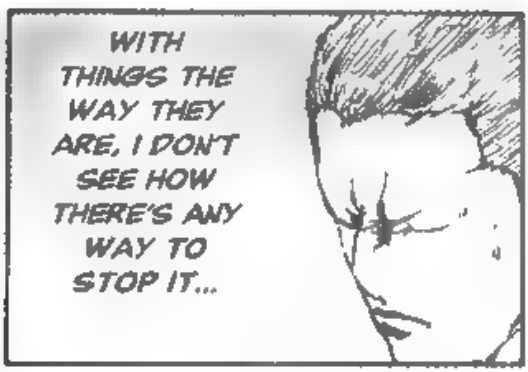
MY PLAN TO TURN [redacted] CLUB INTO THE HOKUTO CORPS IS PROGRESSING FAVORABLY. SOME OF THEM WOULD BE PARTICULARLY WELL-SUITED TO SERVE AS MY SUBORDINATES.

WELL, HE'S... HMM. WHAT WAS HE LIKE?
MAEDA? CAN YOU DESCRIBE HIM TO ME AGAIN?


I WAS NEVER A WEAK FIGHTER OR ANYTHING. IT'S JUST THAT SINCE I'VE COME TO CROMARTIE, MY PRESENCE SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN WEAKER AND WEAKER.

THESE GUYS HAVE REALLY FORGOTTEN ME.

I JUST CAN'T MATCH THE NAME WITH A FACE. WHY DON'T WE START WITH WHAT HE LOOKED LIKE?


WITH THINGS THE WAY THEY ARE, I DON'T SEE HOW THERE'S ANY WAY TO STOP IT...

BWSSH

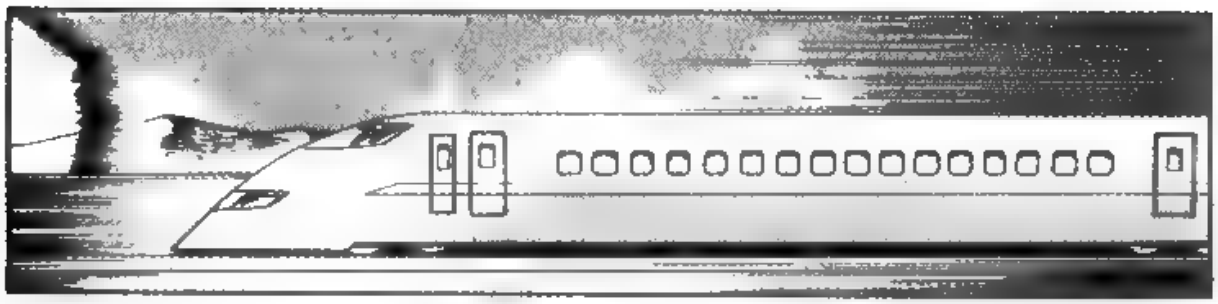
FINE. WAIT HERE A MOMENT.

IT'S HARD TO UNDER-STAND WHEN YOU PUT IT INTO WORDS.
HIS [redacted] SOMEWHAT LONG, LIKE THIS. HIS [redacted] WAS ABOUT THIS WIDE, AND...

JUST SOME PEOPLE I HAPPENED TO RUN INTO. THEY ARE NOT ACQUAINTANCES OF MINE.
WHO ARE THEY?
MAEDA'S EYES AND MOUTH ARE LIKE THIS...
NOW THEN. BASICALLY...
UH, NOW I'M COMPLETELY LOST... AND AREN'T YOU KIND OF INCONVENIENCING THESE GUYS BY DRAGGING THEM IN HERE?
HE'S SORT OF A COMBINATION OF THESE TWO. GOT IT?
BUT HIS NOSE AND OVERALL PROFILE ARE MORE LIKE THIS.
I KNOW! LET'S FIND SOMEONE WHO LOOKS LIKE HIM!
HEY! THERE'S NO NEED TO PUT IT LIKE THAT!
HMPH! MEANWHILE, YOU SIT THERE BLATHERING LIKE THE SIMPLETON YOU ARE, CONTRIBUTING NOTHING AT ALL!

THE HOKUTO CORPS—NOT GONNA HAPPEN.

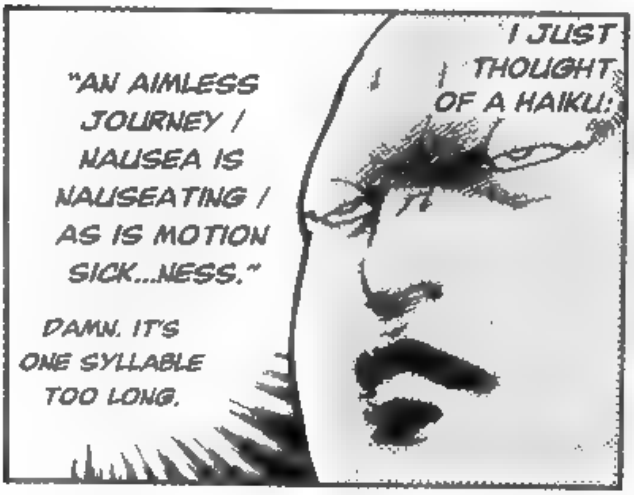
CHAPTER SEVENTY-FOUR: **TRAIN IN VAIN**

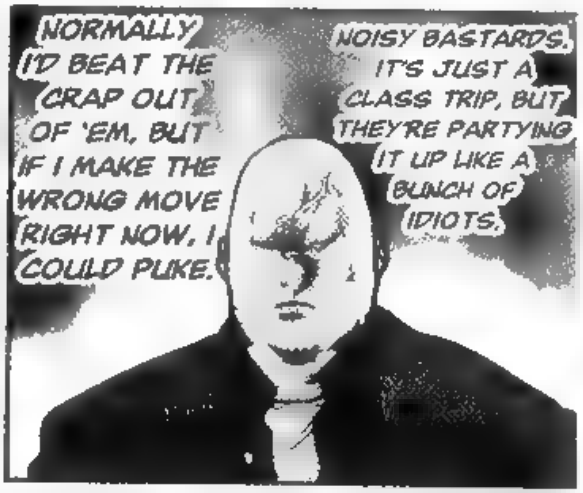


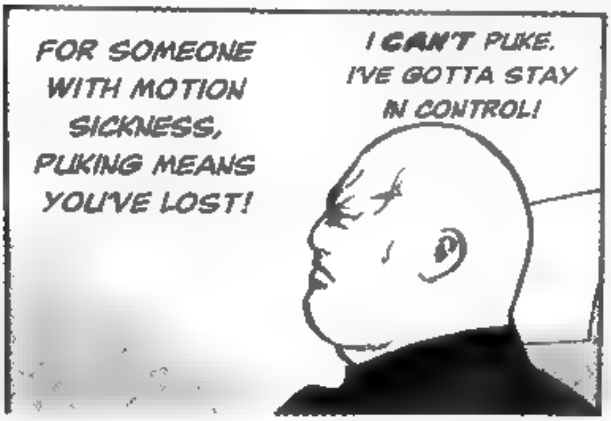
ANYWAY, KYOTO IS FAR. IT'S BEEN AN HOUR SINCE WE LEFT TOKYO, AND WE'VE STILL GOT ANOTHER TWO TO GO. FOR SOMEONE LIKE ME--WHO HAS TERRIBLE MOTION SICKNESS--THIS RIDE SEEMS LIKE IT'LL NEVER END.
MY NAME IS YUTAKA TAKENOUCHI (16). I'M THE BOSS OF THE 1ST YEARS AT CROMARTIE HIGH. I'M SURE SOME OF YOU ARE WONDERING WHAT THE HECK I'M STILL DOING ON THIS BULLET TRAIN...

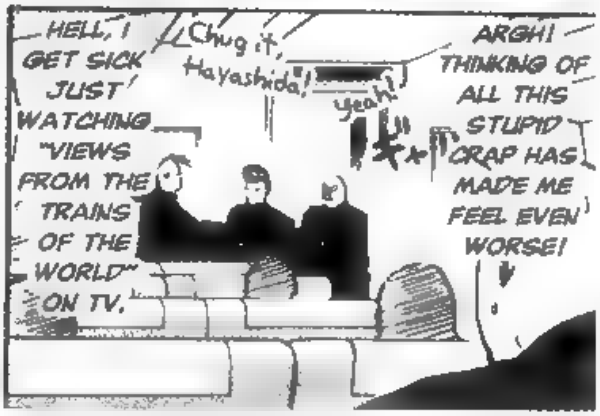
YEAH. HELL, HE EVEN SCARED THOSE YAKUZA GUYS SO BAD THAT THEY TOOK OFF RUNNING!
TAKENOUCHI'S STARTIN' TO LOOK EVEN **MORE** HARDCORE!

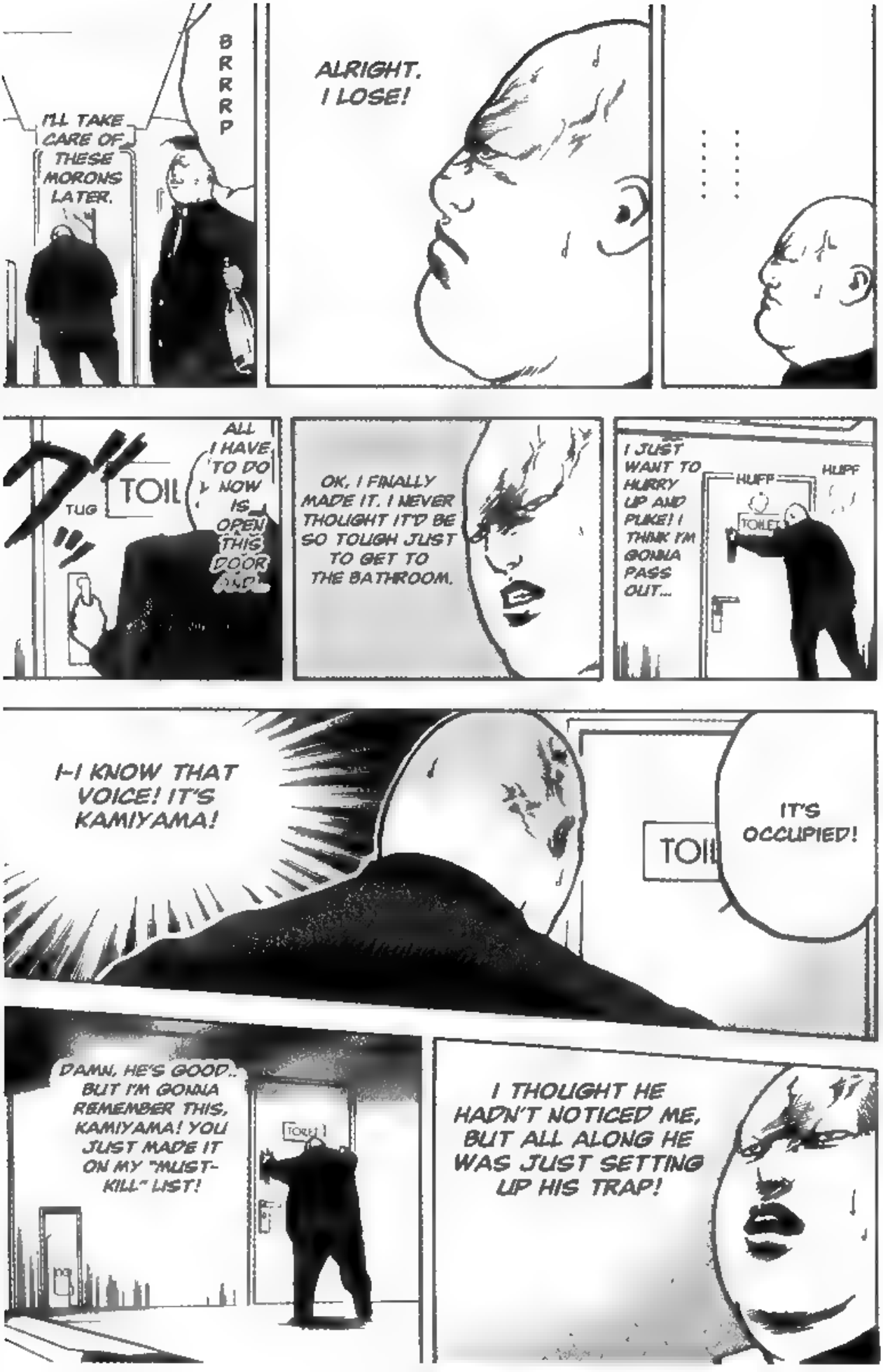
NOTHIN' LIKE A GOOD BOTTLE OF SAKE WHEN YOU'RE ON THE ROAD!
CHEERS! BWAHAHA!
HERE'S TO THE OSAKA BUFFALOES! CONGRATULATIONS ON THE VICTORY, GUYS! WAHAHA!


I JUST THOUGHT OF A HAIKU:
"AN AIMLESS JOURNEY / NAUSEA IS NAUSEATING / AS IS MOTION SICK...NESS."
DAMN. IT'S ONE SYLLABLE TOO LONG.


NORMALLY I'D BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF 'EM, BUT IF I MAKE THE WRONG MOVE RIGHT NOW, I COULD PUKE.
NOISY BASTARDS. IT'S JUST A CLASS TRIP, BUT THEY'RE PARTYING IT UP LIKE A BUNCH OF IDIOTS.


FOR SOMEONE WITH MOTION SICKNESS, PUKING MEANS YOU'VE LOST!
I CAN'T PUKE. I'VE GOTTA STAY IN CONTROL!

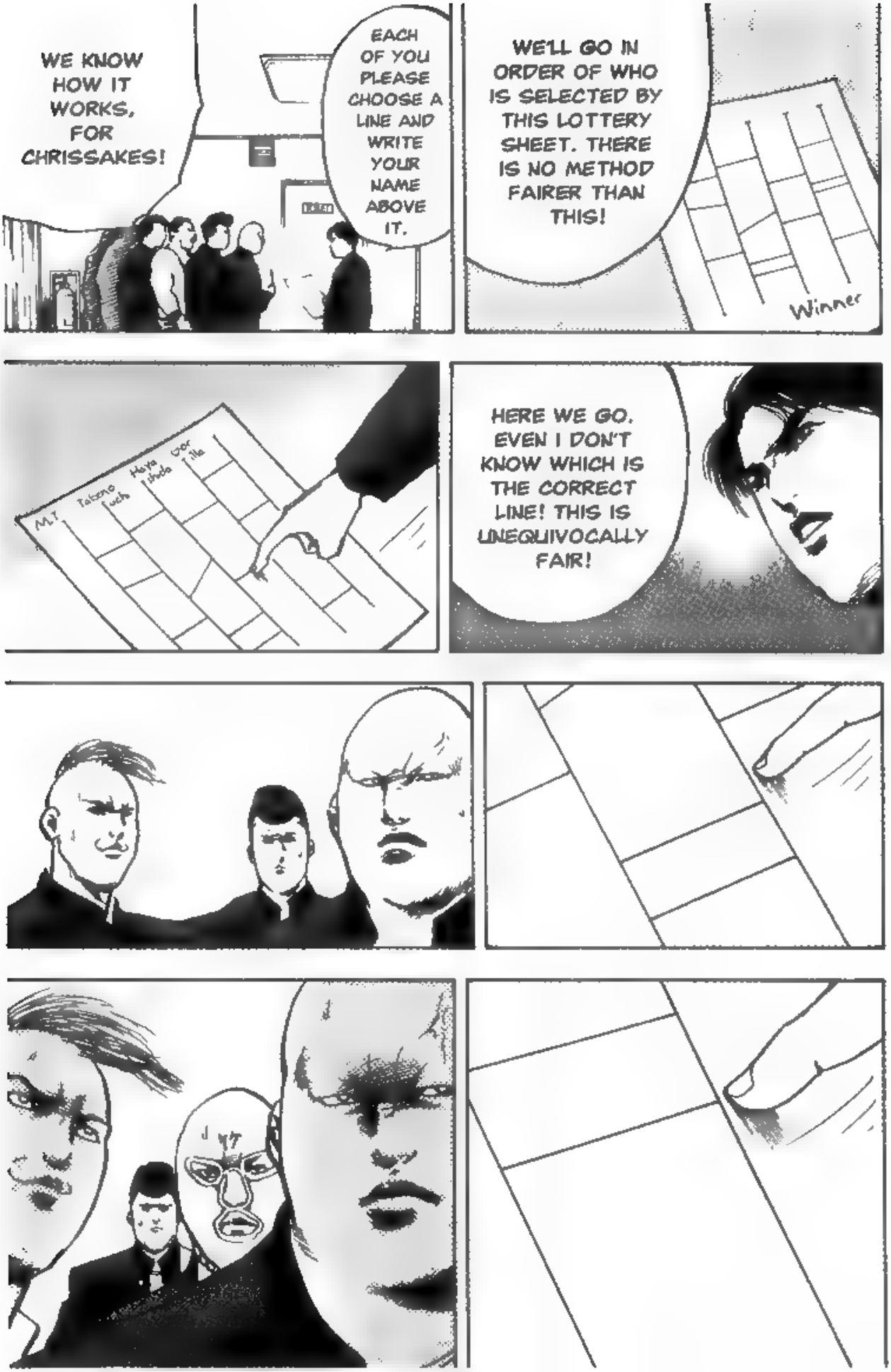

HELL, I GET SICK JUST WATCHING "VIEWS FROM THE TRAINS OF THE WORLD" ON TV.
Chug it, Hayashida!
Yeah!
ARGH! THINKING OF ALL THIS STUPID CRAP HAS MADE ME FEEL EVEN WORSE!


BRRRP
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THESE MORONS LATER.
ALRIGHT. I LOSE!
TUG
TOIL
ALL I HAVE TO DO NOW IS OPEN THIS DOOR AND
OK, I FINALLY MADE IT. I NEVER THOUGHT IT'D BE SO TOUGH JUST TO GET TO THE BATHROOM.
I JUST WANT TO HURRY UP AND PUKE! I THINK I'M GONNA PASS OUT...
HUFF
HUFF
TOILET
I-I KNOW THAT VOICE! IT'S KAMIYAMA!
TOIL
IT'S OCCUPIED!
DAMN, HE'S GOOD.. BUT I'M GONNA REMEMBER THIS, KAMIYAMA! YOU JUST MADE IT ON MY "MUST-KILL" LIST!
TOILET
I THOUGHT HE HADN'T NOTICED ME, BUT ALL ALONG HE WAS JUST SETTING UP HIS TRAP!

HE SHOULD BE DONE BY NOW.
HAD TO RETURN TO HIS SEAT
10 MINUTES LATER
WHAT THE?!
BUT FOR ME, I'M SURE AM MOVING AROUND A LOT.
HMM I FEEL PRETTY TERRIBLE...
THE OTHER ONES ARE ALL OUT OF ORDER, SO EVERYONE'S COMING HERE.
WHAT THE HELL?! GO TO ANOTHER TOILET!
I DRANK WAY TOO MUCH BEER!
MAN, I GOTTA TAKE A PISS!
YOU ASSHOLE! YOU STILL AREN'T OUTTA THERE YET?!
YES, I AM!
KAMIYAMA'S STILL IN THERE, ISN'T HE?

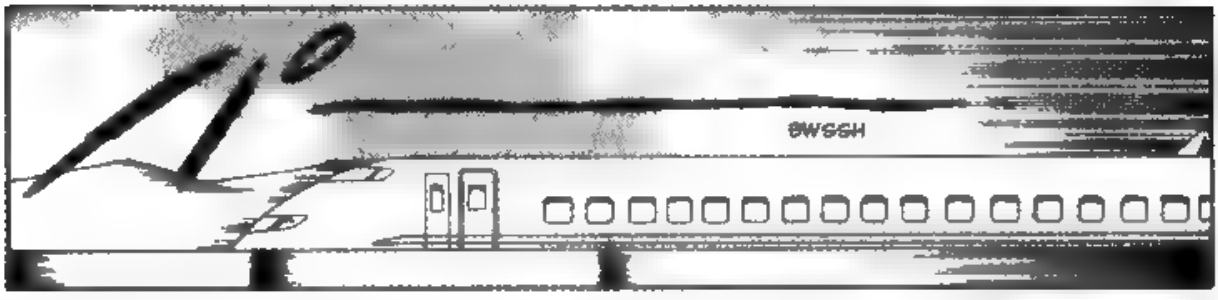
HEY, I'M FIRST!
GET THE HELL OUTTA THE WAY!
AHH, MUCH BETTER. HUH? WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING?
K-CHK
OH? TRYIN' TO PICK A FIGHT WITH ME, ARE YA? HUH?!
WHAT?! WE WERE HERE FIRST, PAL!
SHUT YER PIEHOLES. I'M GOIN' FIRST! YOU SONS OF BITCHES CAN WAIT.
SHUT THE HELL UP! I MIGHT AS WELL SAY THIS NOW: YOU ALWAYS WERE A PAIN IN THE ASS! SO YEAH, I'LL TAKE YOU ON! LET'S GO!
YOU PUNKS HAVE GOTTEN SOME PRETTY LOUD MOUTHS ON YA SINCE I'VE BEEN GONE. I THINK YOU'VE FORGOTTEN WHO YOU'RE TALKIN' TO, HAYASHIDA!
PLEASE, WAIT!
DUDE, DON'T DO IT!
SH-SHUT UP!
YOUR HANDS ARE SHAKIN'.

AS I HAVE JUST RELIEVED MYSELF, HOWEVER, I AM CAPABLE OF BOTH RATIONAL AND IMPARTIAL DECISION-MAKING. WHY NOT ALLOW ME TO COME UP WITH A SOLUTION TO THIS PREDICAMENT?
LISTEN UP, EVERYONE. RIGHT NOW, YOUR URGE TO URINATE IS SO STRONG THAT YOU'RE UNABLE TO THINK CLEARLY.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I CAN TALK ALL I WANT, BUT TAKENOUCHI'S THE TOUGHEST FIGHTER AROUND. IF I TRIED TO TAKE HIM ON, IT'D BE SUICIDE FOR SURE. I'LL GO ALONG WITH KAMIYAMA FOR NOW
IF I TRIED TO FIGHT HIM HERE ON THIS TRAIN, IT'D BE SUICIDE FOR SURE. THE SAFEST THING IS TO GO ALONG WITH KAMIYAMA FOR NOW.
HEY! ASK US WHAT WE THINK!
UNDER-STOOD.
ALRIGHT, WE'LL LEAVE IT UP TO YOU.
A LOTTERY.
AND WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS METHOD?
IN SITUATIONS LIKE THIS, WHERE ONE MUST ESTABLISH A SEQUENTIAL ORDER, IT'S BEST TO USE THE MOST UNBIASED METHOD POSSIBLE: A METHOD WHEREIN ALL ARE GRANTED EQUAL RIGHTS!

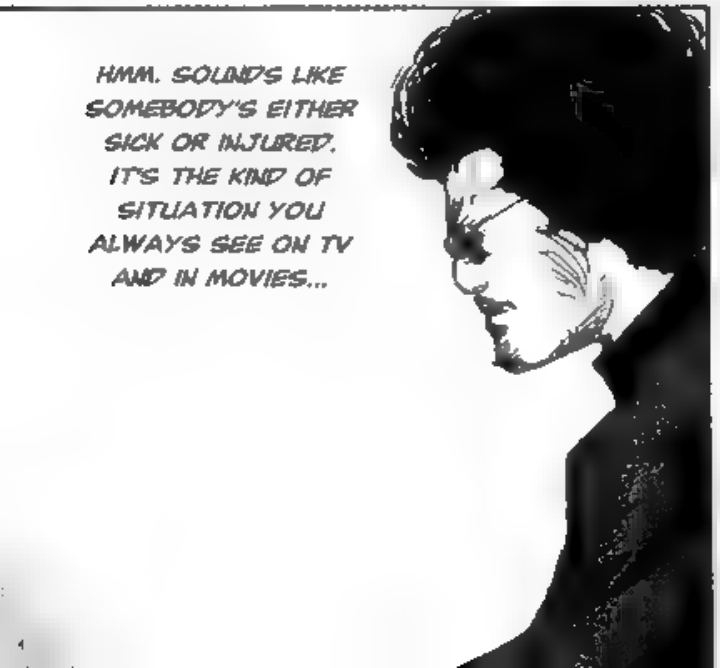

WE KNOW HOW IT WORKS, FOR CHRISSAKES!
EACH OF YOU PLEASE CHOOSE A LINE AND WRITE YOUR NAME ABOVE IT.
WE'LL GO IN ORDER OF WHO IS SELECTED BY THIS LOTTERY SHEET. THERE IS NO METHOD FAIRER THAN THIS!
Winner
M.T
Takano Yuichi
Hara Hideo
Ueda Ita
HERE WE GO. EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHICH IS THE CORRECT LINE! THIS IS UNEQUIVOCALLY FAIR!

TRULY, A MAN OF INTEGRITY.

CHAPTER SEVENTY FIVE: **THE YAMAGUCHI EXPRESS**



I HAVE ONLY ONE GOAL IN MIND: TO DO A STAND-UP ROUTINE THAT WILL HAVE EVERY ONE OF MY RELATIVES IN STITCHES. DAMN, I CAN'T WAIT.
I'M ON MY WAY TO A RELATIVE'S WEDDING RECEPTION... BUT OF COURSE, I'M NOT THE LEAST BIT INTERESTED IN THE THING.
HELLO, I'M MAKIKO TANAKA. (LOL) CORRECTION: I'M NOBORU YAMAGUCHI.
NOBORU YAMAGUCHI

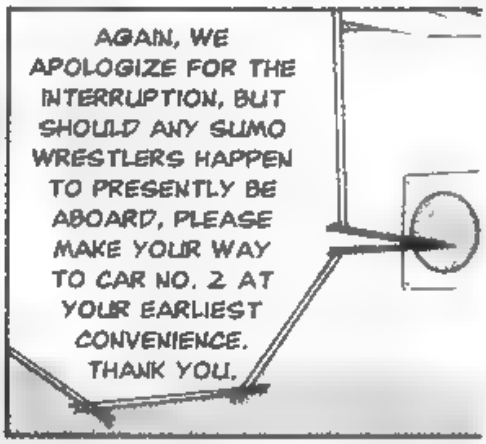


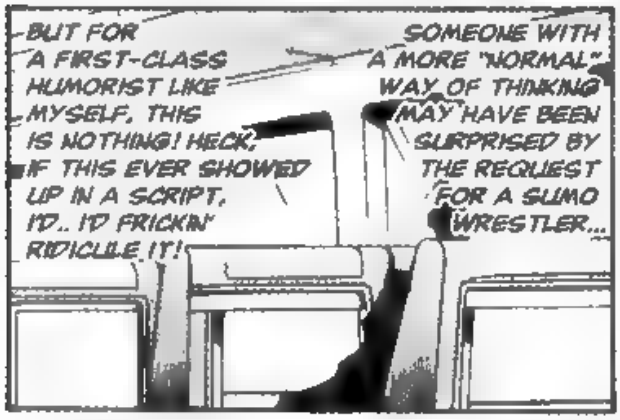
WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INTERRUPTION, BUT SHOULD A DOCTOR HAPPEN TO PRESENTLY BE ABOARD, WE WOULD ASK THAT YOU PLEASE MAKE YOUR WAY TO CAR NO. 2. THANK YOU.

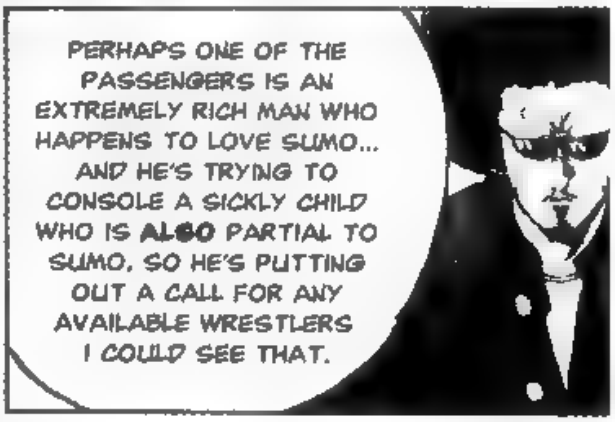
A MINUTE OR TWO LATER, SHE'LL COME ON AND ASK, "ARE THERE ANY TRAIN DRIVERS ON BOARD?" TO WHICH EVERYONE WILL IMMEDIATELY GO, "WHOA, WE'RE IN TROUBLE!" THIS SHTICK IS SO OVERUSED.
IT'S PRETTY COMMON IN COMIC SKITS, TOO.

WELL. I'VE NEVER HEARD THEM ASK FOR A SUMO WRESTLER BEFORE.

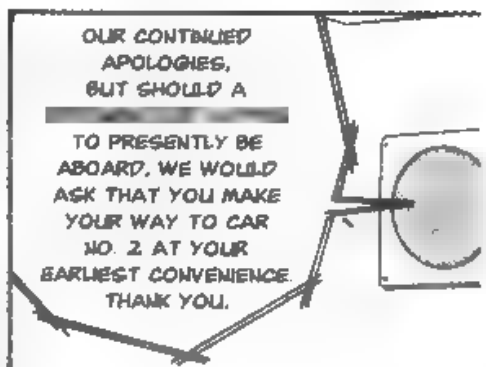
.....

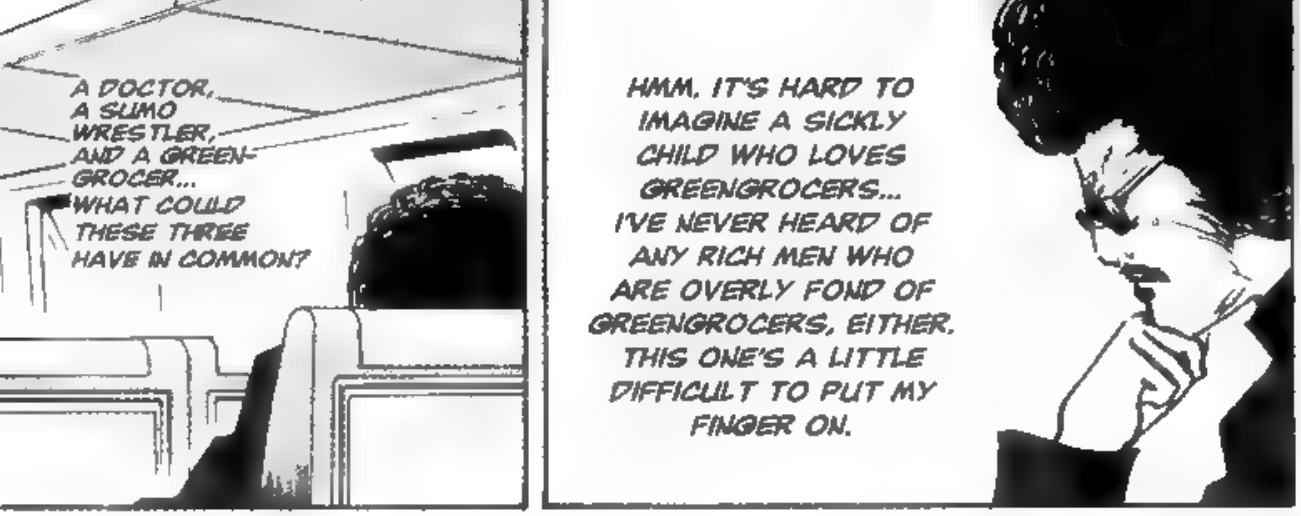

AGAIN, WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INTERRUPTION, BUT SHOULD ANY SUMO WRESTLERS HAPPEN TO PRESENTLY BE ABOARD, PLEASE MAKE YOUR WAY TO CAR NO. 2 AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. THANK YOU.

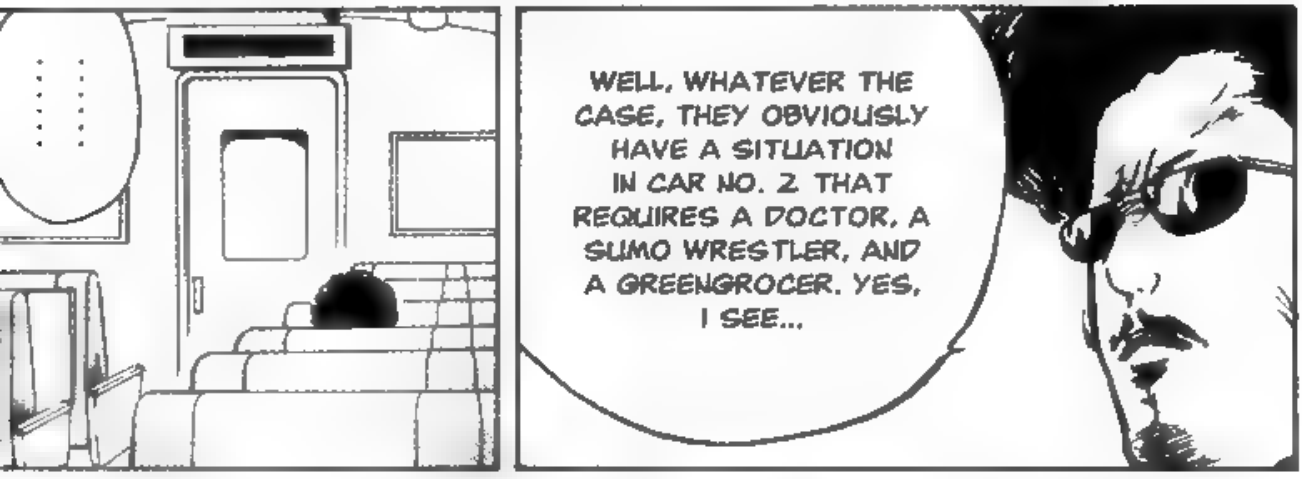

BUT FOR A FIRST-CLASS HUMORIST LIKE MYSELF, THIS IS NOTHING! HECK, IF THIS EVER SHOWED UP IN A SCRIPT, I'D.. I'D FRICKIN' RIDICULE IT!
SOMEONE WITH A MORE "NORMAL" WAY OF THINKING MAY HAVE BEEN SURPRISED BY THE REQUEST FOR A SUMO WRESTLER...


PERHAPS ONE OF THE PASSENGERS IS AN EXTREMELY RICH MAN WHO HAPPENS TO LOVE SUMO... AND HE'S TRYING TO CONSOLE A SICKLY CHILD WHO IS **ALSO** PARTIAL TO SUMO, SO HE'S PUTTING OUT A CALL FOR ANY AVAILABLE WRESTLERS I COULD SEE THAT.

A GREENGROCER?!

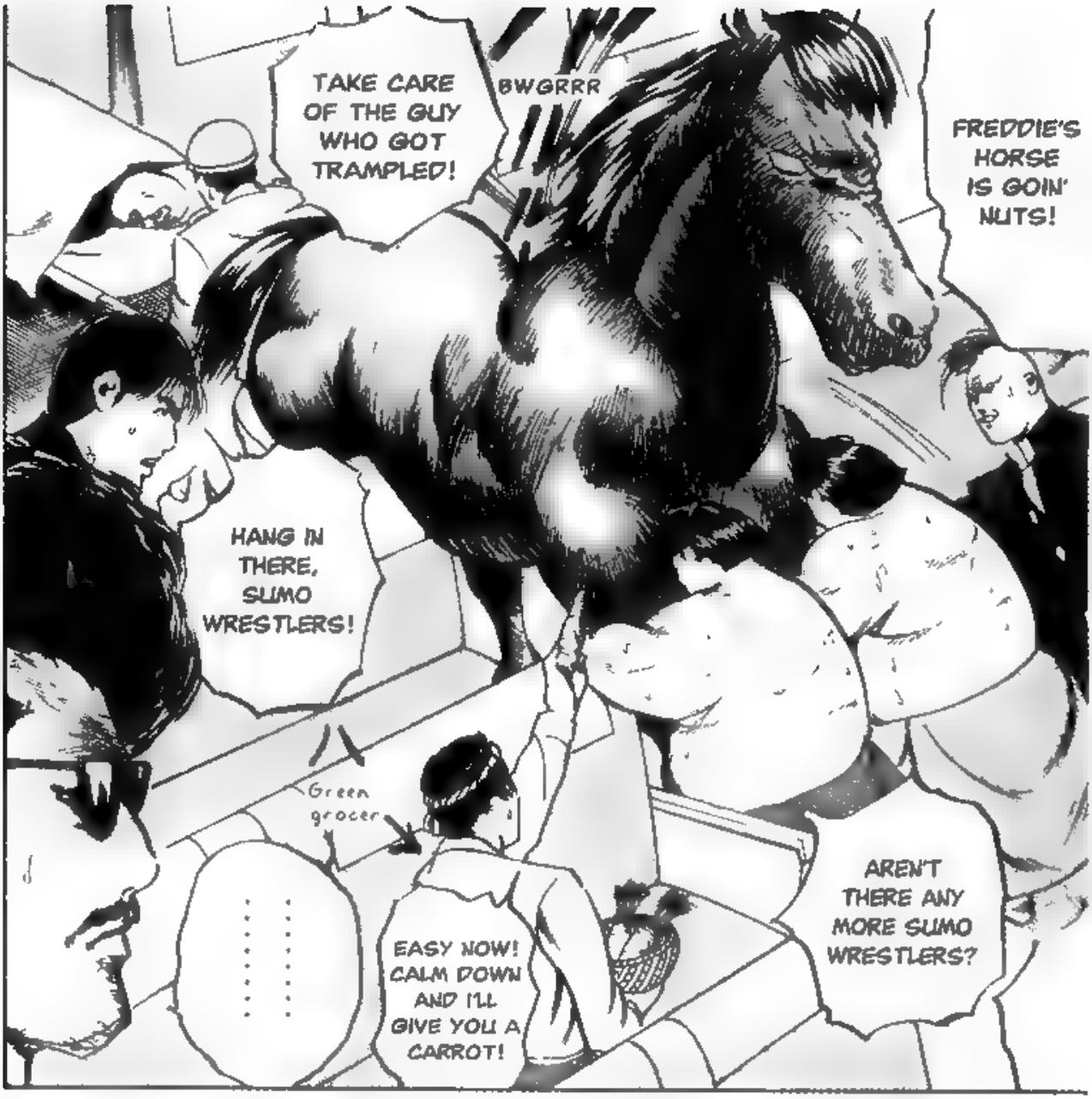

OUR CONTINUED APOLOGIES, BUT SHOULD A
TO PRESENTLY BE ABOARD, WE WOULD ASK THAT YOU MAKE YOUR WAY TO CAR NO. 2 AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. THANK YOU.


A DOCTOR, A SUMO WRESTLER, AND A GREEN-GROCER... WHAT COULD THESE THREE HAVE IN COMMON?
HMM. IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE A SICKLY CHILD WHO LOVES GREENGROCERS... I'VE NEVER HEARD OF ANY RICH MEN WHO ARE OVERLY FOND OF GREENGROCERS, EITHER. THIS ONE'S A LITTLE DIFFICULT TO PUT MY FINGER ON.


WELL, WHATEVER THE CASE, THEY OBVIOUSLY HAVE A SITUATION IN CAR NO. 2 THAT REQUIRES A DOCTOR, A SUMO WRESTLER, AND A GREENGROCER. YES, I SEE...

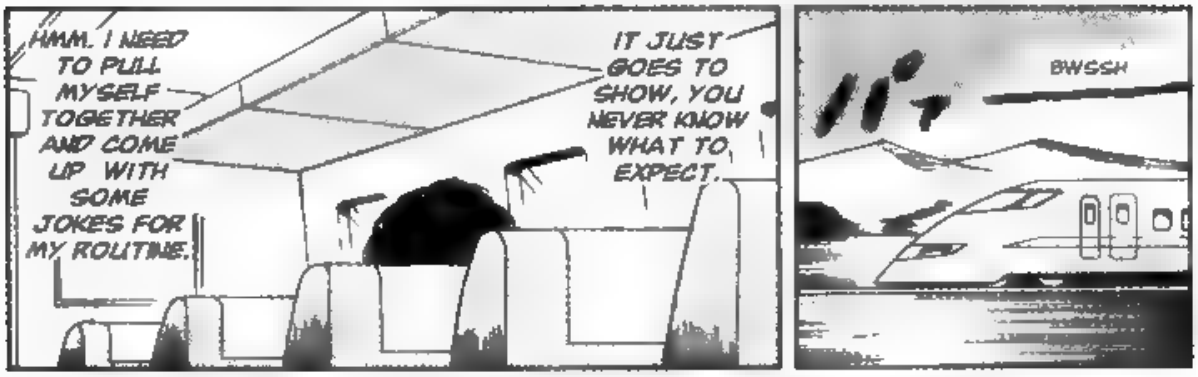
THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL THAT COULD EVER HAPPEN!
(DELIVERING PUNCHLINE TO HIMSELF)
EXCEPT...

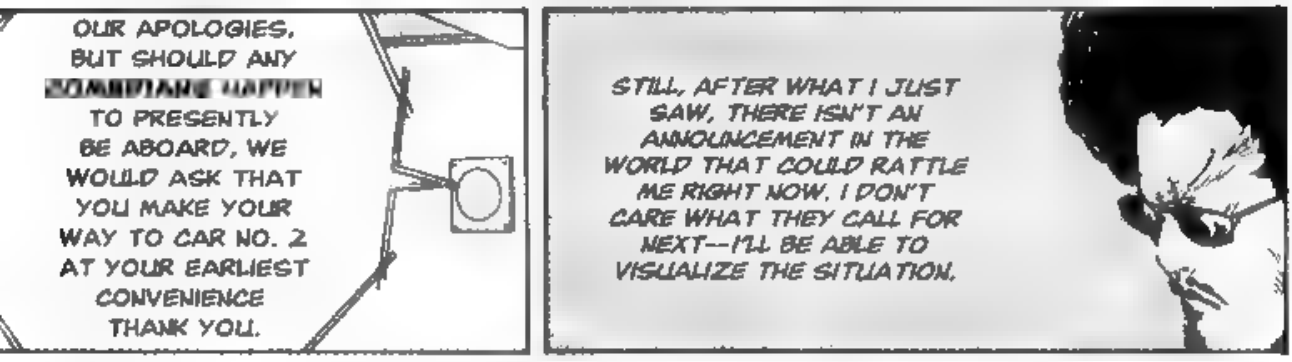
RATTLE
I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH OF AN AMATEUR YOU ARE— THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH CRAP PEOPLE ARE GONNA PUT UP WITH! I'M GONNA GO IN THERE AND SET THESE IDIOTS STRAIGHT!
JEEZ! WE SIT HERE QUIETLY AND LISTEN TO THESE "ANNOUNCE-MENTS," AND THEY TRY AND PULL A STUNT LIKE THIS?!


TAKE CARE OF THE GUY WHO GOT TRAMPLED!
BWGRRR
FREDDIE'S HORSE IS GOIN' NUTS!
HANG IN THERE, SUMO WRESTLERS!
Green grocer
. . . . . .
EASY NOW! CALM DOWN AND I'LL GIVE YOU A CARROT!
AREN'T THERE ANY MORE SUMO WRESTLERS?

AND THE ANSWER IS: "A RAMPAGING HORSE."

CHAPTER SEVENTY-SIX: **THE TRACKS GO EVER, EVER ON**

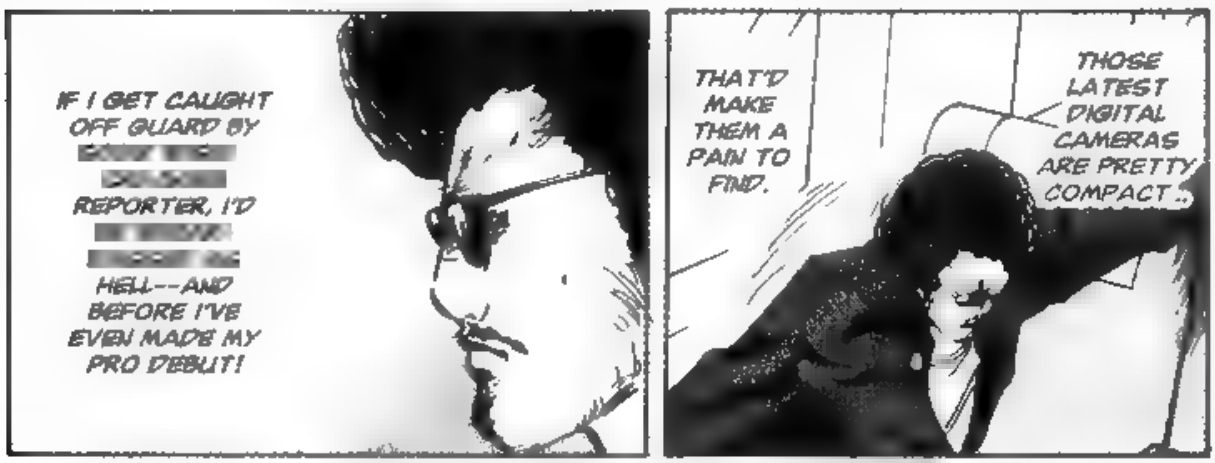

HMM. I NEED TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER AND COME UP WITH SOME JOKES FOR MY ROUTINE.
IT JUST GOES TO SHOW, YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT.
BWSSH


OUR APOLOGIES, BUT SHOULD ANY [redacted] TO PRESENTLY BE ABOARD, WE WOULD ASK THAT YOU MAKE YOUR WAY TO CAR NO. 2 AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE THANK YOU.
STILL, AFTER WHAT I JUST SAW, THERE ISN'T AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE WORLD THAT COULD RATTLE ME RIGHT NOW. I DON'T CARE WHAT THEY CALL FOR NEXT--I'LL BE ABLE TO VISUALIZE THE SITUATION.

IF I JUST STROLL OVER THERE ONLY TO WALK IN ON A REAL PRO, IT WOULD BE KINDA RUDE.
NORMALLY, THIS WOULD BE MY CUE. BUT THE THING IS, I HAVEN'T MADE MY PROFESSIONAL DEBUT YET.

THEY'RE REALLY SOMETHING. IT'S LIKE THEY'RE READING MY DAMN MIND!
WHAT?!
INCIDENTALLY, WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME [redacted] WHO HAVE YET TO MAKE THEIR PROFESSIONAL DEBUT.

COULD THIS BE A HIDDEN CAMERA SHOW?!
NO. IT FEELS MORE LIKE SOME KIND OF PLOT.


IF I GET CAUGHT OFF GUARD BY [redacted] REPORTER, I'D [redacted] HELL--AND BEFORE I'VE EVEN MADE MY PRO DEBUT!
THAT'D MAKE THEM A PAIN TO FIND.
THOSE LATEST DIGITAL CAMERAS ARE PRETTY COMPACT...

IN A WAY, IT'S A CHANCE TO GET INTO THE PUBLIC EYE BEFORE I DEBUT! THAT MEANS I'VE GOTTA COME UP WITH A GREAT RESPONSE FOR WHEN THEY GET ME ON CAMERA.
HANG ON A MINUTE. THIS COULD ACTUALLY BE PRETTY AWESOME!

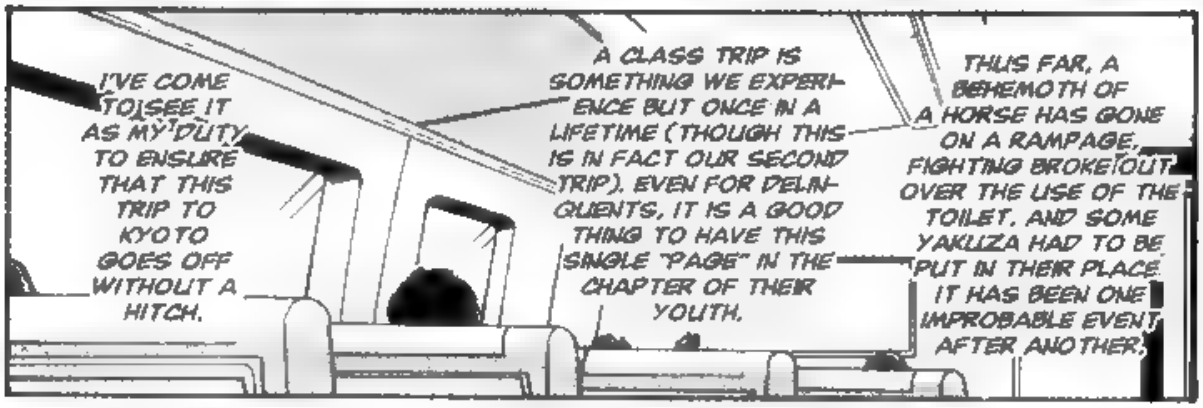
I HAVEN'T EVEN MADE MY PRO DEBUT. THERE'S NO WAY A TV SHOW WOULD GO TO ALL THAT TROUBLE TO SET ME UP!! I THINK I'M OVERREACTING MYSELF A BIT.
A TYPICAL SETUP FOR THESE KINDS OF SHOWS IS TO FIRST BRING OUT A SEXY YOUNG GIRL, AND THEN SHE STARTS GETTING INTO IT WITH SOME BIG, FEAR-SOME-LOOKING DUDE...
SO ONE OF THE PAS-SENGERS ON THIS TRAIN IS A RICH GUY...OR POSSIBLY A SICKLY CHILD...WHO LIKES COMEDY.
BUT STILL, WHY WOULD THEY ASK FOR A COMEDIAN? I GUESS THE SIMPLEST ANSWER IS THAT SOMEONE WHO CAN MAKE THEM LAUGH.
OK! THE CONDUCTOR LIKES COMEDY... BUT WAIT, GETTIN' HIM TO LAUGH WHILE HE'S ON THE JOB WOULD BE WAY TOO DANGEROUS.
DAMMIT! MY IDEAS AREN'T ANY DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE! C'MON, THINK! TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL!
RATTLE
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON BEHIND THIS DOOR? I WANNA KNOW!
I'M DRAWIN' A BLANK.

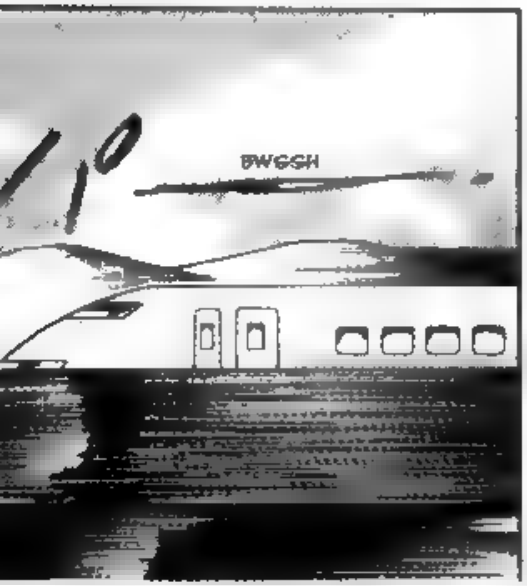
THE HORSE IS WIGGIN' OUT AGAIN!
BWGRRRR
BWRRR
. . . . . .
Comedian (the straight man)
Comedian (the funny man)
HANG IN THERE, COMEDIANS!
I HEAR YA, PARTNER!
HEY, PARTNER! THIS AIN'T THE TIME TO BE CRACKIN' JOKES!

SO THAT'S WHAT THEY CAME UP WITH...

CHAPTER SEVENTY-SEVEN: **STOP THIS TRAIN**

THE AIR IN THE TRAIN IS PEACEFUL ONCE AGAIN; IT'S STARTING TO FEEL LIKE A PROPER CLASS TRIP.
DEAR MOTHER, IT APPEARS THAT THE HORSE HAS CALMED DOWN.

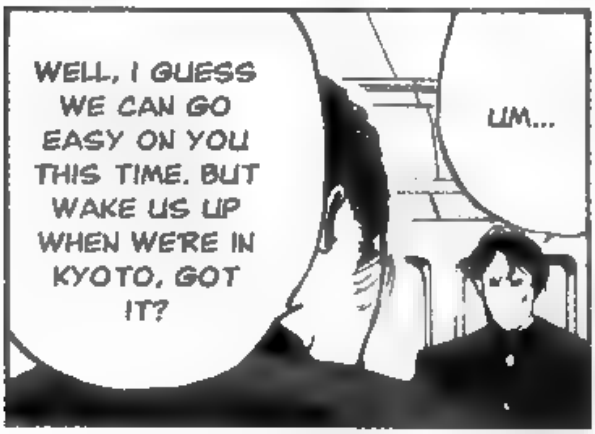

I'VE COME TO SEE IT AS MY DUTY TO ENSURE THAT THIS TRIP TO KYOTO GOES OFF WITHOUT A HITCH.
A CLASS TRIP IS SOMETHING WE EXPERIENCE BUT ONCE IN A LIFETIME (THOUGH THIS IS IN FACT OUR SECOND TRIP). EVEN FOR DELINQUENTS, IT IS A GOOD THING TO HAVE THIS SINGLE "PAGE" IN THE CHAPTER OF THEIR YOUTH.
THUS FAR, A BEHEMOTH OF A HORSE HAS GONE ON A RAMPAGE, FIGHTING BROKE OUT OVER THE USE OF THE TOILET, AND SOME YAKUZA HAD TO BE PUT IN THEIR PLACE. IT HAS BEEN ONE IMPROBABLE EVENT AFTER ANOTHER.

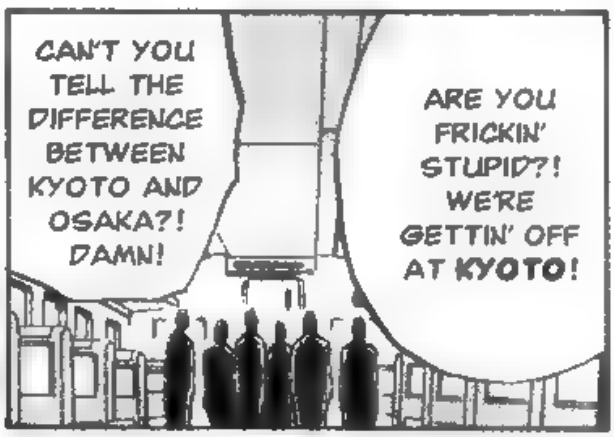


WE SEEM TO HAVE PASSED KYOTO QUITE SOME TIME AGO.
WE WILL SOON BE ARRIVING AT SHIN-OSAKA STATION.
HNGR
ZZZ
HNGR
ZZZ
YOU SURE KNOW SO A GEOGRAPHY KAMIYAMA
YOU DON'T KNOW? THIS IS HAMANAKO IT'S WELL KNOWN FOR ITS SCENERY
WHERE ARE WE NOW?
IF ONLY I HADN'T SAID THAT
UH-OH.
LACK I'LL LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME!
SHUT YER HOLE! WHY DON'T YOU JUST WAKE US WHEN WE GET THERE?
GOOD GRIEF! YOU DON'T KNOW THAT EITHER?
HOW MUCH LONGER TILL WE GET TO KYOTO?

CRAP, MAN! I'M STILL TIRED!
HUH?! WHAT THE HELL?
EVERY-ONE, PLEASE WAKE UP!
IT'S MY OWN FAULT FOR FALLING ASLEEP. I CAN'T KEEP QUIET ABOUT THIS--I HAVE TO TELL THEM THE TRUTH!
SHIP
THE TRUTH IS, WE'VE ALREADY REACHED OSAKA... AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, BUT I HAVE AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE. PLEASE LISTEN CAREFULLY.
!!
I ACCEPT FULL RESPON-SIBILITY. BOIL ME, FRY ME... DO WHAT YOU LIKE!
WH-WHAT DID YOU SAY?!

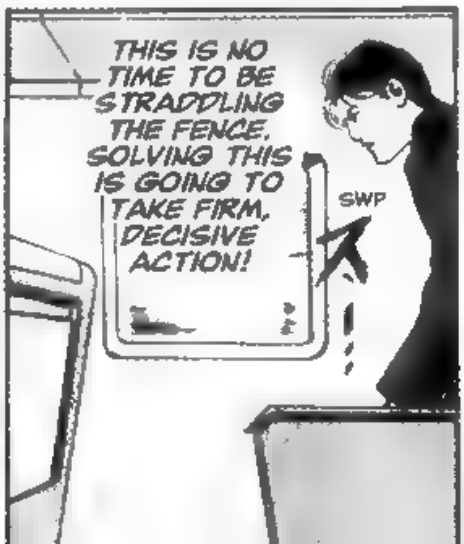
"STILL"? UM, I THINK THERE'S...
SHIT! WE'RE STILL IN OSAKA?!


WELL, I GUESS WE CAN GO EASY ON YOU THIS TIME. BUT WAKE US UP WHEN WE'RE IN KYOTO, GOT IT?
UM...


CAN'T YOU TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KYOTO AND OSAKA?! DAMN!
ARE YOU FRICKIN' STUPID?! WE'RE GETTIN' OFF AT KYOTO!

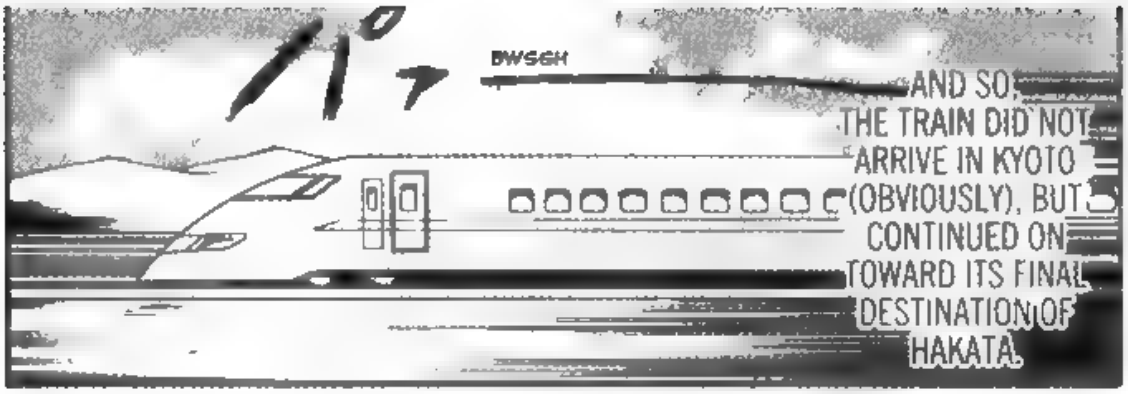
I'M FLABBER-GASTED ALL OVER AGAIN. THINGS ARE GRIM INDEED, BUT NOW FOR AN ALTO-GETHER DIF-FERENT REASON!
THIS IS NOT GOOD. THEY'VE COME THIS FAR IN LIFE WITH-OUT KNOWING SOMETHING SO BASIC?!

HUH?
EVERY-ONE, YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!


THIS IS NO TIME TO BE STRADDLING THE FENCE. SOLVING THIS IS GOING TO TAKE FIRM, DECISIVE ACTION!
SWP

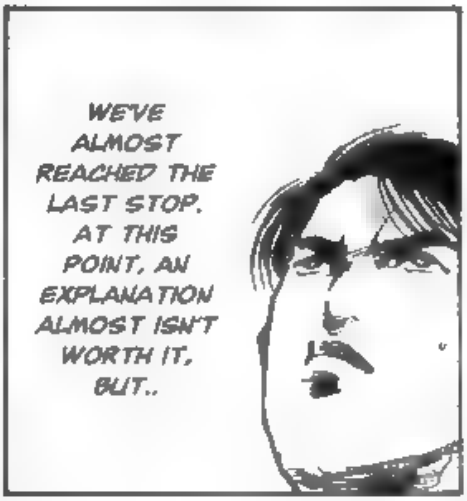
"THE EARTH"? WHAT THE HELL'S THAT?!
TODAY I'D LIKE TO DO A LITTLE LESSON ABOUT THE EARTH.
YURI GAGARIN ONCE SAID, "THE EARTH IS BLUE." STILL, I DON'T SUPPOSE THAT'S RELEVANT RIGHT NOW.
WHOA!
AH. THIS, BY THE WAY, IS THE EARTH.
AND THIS IS KYOTO.
Tokyo
東京
京都
Kyoto
INDEED. FURTHER-MORE, YOU ALL LIVE HERE, IN TOKYO.
WE LIVE IN A TINY-ASS PLACE LIKE THAT?
IT'S TOO SMALL. I CAN'T SEE IT!
THIS AREA RIGHT HERE IS JAPAN. YOU ARE ALL CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY
KYOTO IS BETWEEN TOKYO AND OSAKA.
PUT ANOTHER WAY...
Tokyo
東京
大阪
Osaka
Kyoto
THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF IT!
AND HERE, BEYOND KYOTO, IS OSAKA.
大阪
Osaka
京都
Kyoto

. . . . . .
YEAH, I GET IT. WHAT YOU'RE SAYIN' IS...
WELL... YES.
WE AIN'T IN KYOTO YET! RIGHT?
AH. OF COURSE.
BUT WE'RE NOT **THAT** STUPID. YOU COULD'VE JUST TOLD US.
LISTEN, KAMIYAMA. I APPRECIATE YOU EXPLAININ' IT TO US USING A MAP AND ALL. IT MADE IT EASY TO UNDER-STAND.


BWSGH
AND SO THE TRAIN DID NOT ARRIVE IN KYOTO (OBVIOUSLY), BUT CONTINUED ON TOWARD ITS FINAL DESTINATION OF HAKATA.

HUH?
EVERY-ONE! THIS TRAIN IS NOT GOING TO KYOTO!
WHAT?!

SWP


WE'VE ALMOST REACHED THE LAST STOP. AT THIS POINT, AN EXPLANATION ALMOST ISN'T WORTH IT, BUT..

NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU STAY ON THIS TRAIN, YOU WILL NEVER REACH KYOTO!
LISTEN CLOSELY. THE NEXT STOP IS HAKATA... AND IT'S THE LAST STOP.

YES.

SO THAT MEANS...

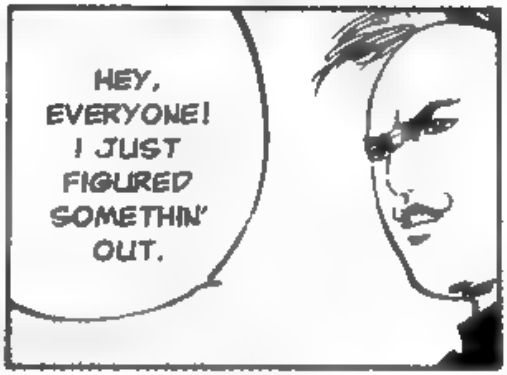
I'M SORRY, BUT THERE'S NO WAY AROUND IT. THIS IS THE END.
WHAT?! ARE YOU SERIOUS?

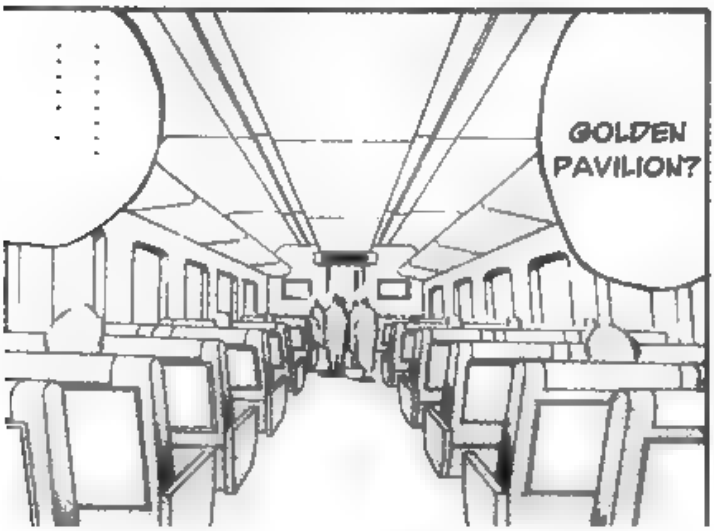
HOW CAN I GET THROUGH TO THEM?!
SHOULD WE GET ON THE EXPRESS THIS TIME?
DAMN, THIS "KYOTO" PLACE IS PRETTY FAR.
WE GOTTA TRANSFER, HUH?

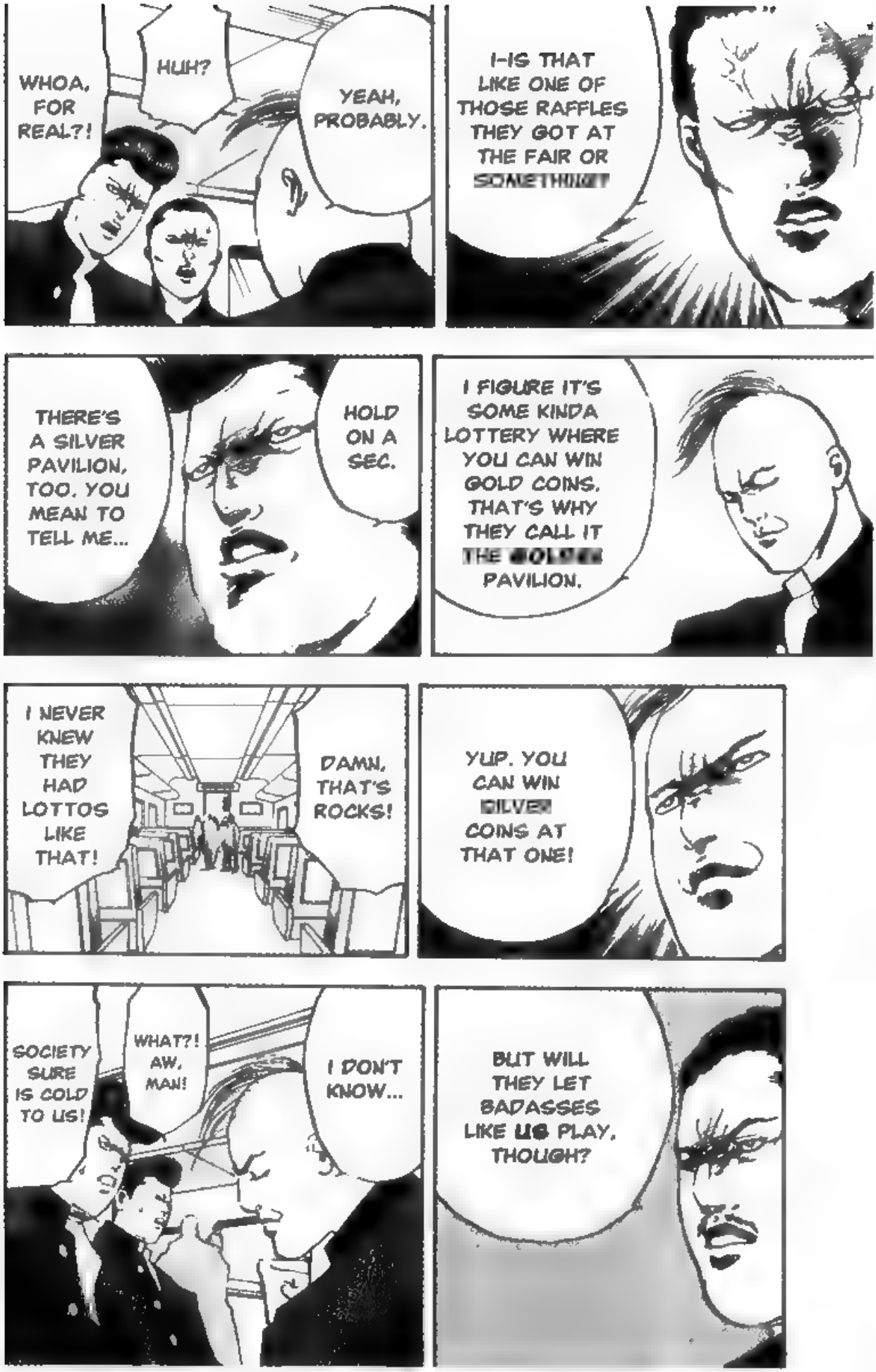
I WANNA GO TO KYOTO...

CHAPTER SEVENTY-EIGHT: **GALAXY EXPRESS 43**

The Hokuto Corps joined up with them at some point.
HOWEVER, I DON'T KNOW IN WHICH DIRECTION WE'RE HEADED... IN FACT, I'M SO CONFUSED THAT I'M NOT EVEN SURE THIS IS A BULLET TRAIN.
DEAR MOTHER, I HAVE AGAIN BOARDED THE BULLET TRAIN.



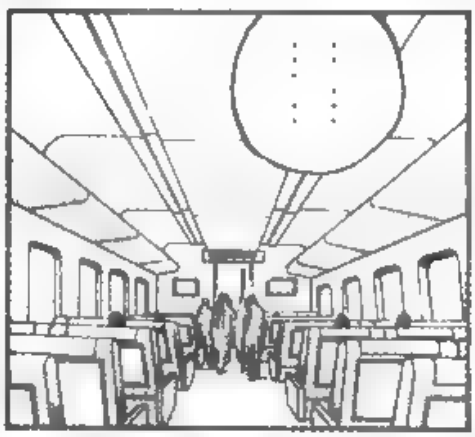



WHOA, FOR REAL?!
HUH?
YEAH, PROBABLY.
I-IS THAT LIKE ONE OF THOSE RAFFLES THEY GOT AT THE FAIR OR SOMETHING?
THERE'S A SILVER PAVILION, TOO. YOU MEAN TO TELL ME...
HOLD ON A SEC.
I FIGURE IT'S SOME KINDA LOTTERY WHERE YOU CAN WIN GOLD COINS. THAT'S WHY THEY CALL IT THE GOLDEN PAVILION.
I NEVER KNEW THEY HAD LOTTOS LIKE THAT!
DAMN, THAT'S ROCKS!
YUP. YOU CAN WIN SILVER COINS AT THAT ONE!
SOCIETY SURE IS COLD TO US!
WHAT?! AW, MAN!
I DON'T KNOW...
BUT WILL THEY LET BADASSES LIKE US PLAY, THOUGH?

THE THING IS, THE GOLDEN AND SILVER PAVILIONS ARE BASICALLY **TEMPLES**. I GOTTA FIGURE THEY WOULDN'T LET YOUR MORE DEGENERATE TYPES GO IN THERE.

DAMN! WHAT A LET-DOWN!
THAT'S WHAT I MEAN BY **SOCIETY**!
DUDE, EVERY TOWN IS COLD TO US.

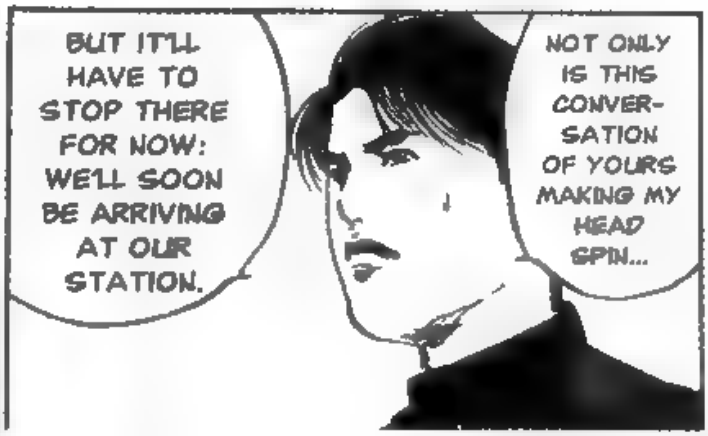
YEAH. A TEMPLE'S WHERE TO GO IF YOU WANNA, LIKE, SHAVE YOUR HEAD AND BE A MONK
AAH, WHATEVER. I GOT BAD LUCK WITH LOTTOS ANYHOW.
THEY ARE PRETTY STRICT AT THOSE TEMPLES, HUH?



WHAT?
EXCUSE ME.

HEY, WITH A CUT LIKE THAT, YOU'RE ALREADY HALFWAY THERE! HA HA!
WELL YOU CAN COUNT ME OUT. I AIN'T DOWN WITH THAT WHOLE MONK THING.

OH, WELL, KINDA SUCKS, THOUGH.
SWP
WHAT, WE'RE ALREADY THERE?
SWP!


BUT IT'LL HAVE TO STOP THERE FOR NOW: WE'LL SOON BE ARRIVING AT OUR STATION.
NOT ONLY IS THIS CONVER-SATION OF YOURS MAKING MY HEAD SPIN...

THE BULLET TRAIN MANGA—THE END.

CHAPTER SEVENTY-NINE: JOURNEY OF THE HEART

YEAH.
KYOTO SURE WAS FUN.
CROMARTIE
. . . . . .
WHAT, LIKE, LEFT THE GREATEST IMPRESSION ON YOU?
SO...
YEAH, WELL, THAT'S WHAT TRAVEL'S ALL ABOUT.
IT WAS FUN, SO WE CAN JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT.
WELL, I GUESS EVEN I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING THAT REALLY LEFT AN IMPRESSION...
I'VE GOT KIND OF A FAINT, [redacted] FEELING...
HUH?!
ARE YOU REALLY ALRIGHT WITH THAT?

. . . . . .
IS IT POSSIBLE WE NEVER ACTUALLY WENT TO KYOTO?
WHENEVER SOMETHING DOESN'T WORK OUT FOR US, WE JUST KIND OF SLIDE IT UNDER THE CARPET...BUT ISN'T THAT WHAT MAKES SOCIETY LAUGH AT US?!
NO, LET ME SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON THIS, OR WE MIGHT END UP BEIN' HOODS FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES!
DON'T SAY THAT!
KAMI-YAMA...
DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF, HAYASHIDA-KUN.
. . . . . .

GOING ON A TRIP IS, BY NATURE, SOMETHING OF AN INTANGIBILITY.
THE REAL PROOF OF A TRIP LIES IN THE HEARTS OF THOSE WHO WENT, AND IN THE MEMORIES THAT THEY'VE ACCUMULATED.
YEAH...
EVEN IF YOU TAKE PHOTOS OF YOUR JOURNEY, THEY ARE MERE IMAGES, NOTHING MORE! IF THEY DO NOT LIE WITHIN YOUR HEART, THEN IT'S THE SAME AS HAVING NEVER GONE!
.....
PEER DEEP INTO YOUR HEARTS. FIND THE MEMORIES THAT YOU HAVE THERE.
THOSE PRECIOUS MEMORIES ARE THE REAL PROOF OF YOUR TRIP!
YOU UNDER-STAND NOW, DON'T YOU?
NOW WE CAN SAY WITH CONFIDENCE WHETHER WE WENT ON A TRIP OR NOT.
WE'VE BEEN FOOLS. IT'S UP TO OUR HEARTS TO TELL US THE TRUTH.
THANKS, MAN.

WE DIDN'T GO EITHER.

AN INCREDIBLY SIMPLE INTRODUCTION TO THE CHARACTERS

TAKASHI KAMIYAMA

Our protagonist, and the only honor student at Cromartie High. These story elements, however, have long since fallen by the wayside.

SHINJIRO HAYASHIDA

An idiot, as you can clearly see. Has a mohawk. Provides many of the jokes in this story. In this volume, he will reveal a shocking truth.

AKIRA MAEDA

Has a sharp tongue. Is the voice of reason, but unfortunately no one ever pays any attention.

YUTAKA TAKENOUCHI

Leader of the 1st-year students at Cromartie High. Is a top-rate fighter, he's also, however, top-rate when it comes to motion sickness. He returns from America in this volume.

TAKESHI HOKUTO

Heir to the Hokuto Foundation, a powerful conglomerate. Has ambitions of bringing all Japan's high schools under his control. At least, he used to.

HOKUTO'S HENCHMAN

Even now, he continues to pledge his loyalty to Hokuto--which in a way makes him the biggest moron of all. His name is still unknown.

FREDDIE

Completely enshrouded in mystery. A swell guy who nonetheless raises the question: is he really a high school student? More to the point, is he even Japanese?

MECHAZAWA

A machine. In this respect, at least, he is easier to understand than Freddie. In this volume he has been brought back from his "bike form."

NOBORU YAMAGUCHI

Leader of the 1st-year students at Destrade High, Cromartie's rival school. Loves good comedy. Is extremely particular when it comes to gags.

Wishing you well this winter season.

Just wanted to share this season's greeting with you, and wish you all the best in the New Year.

THE PATH OF MAN IS ONE OF COMBAT

Shinichi Mechazawa

NATIONAL RICHES MILITARY MIGHT

TAKESHI HOKUTO

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

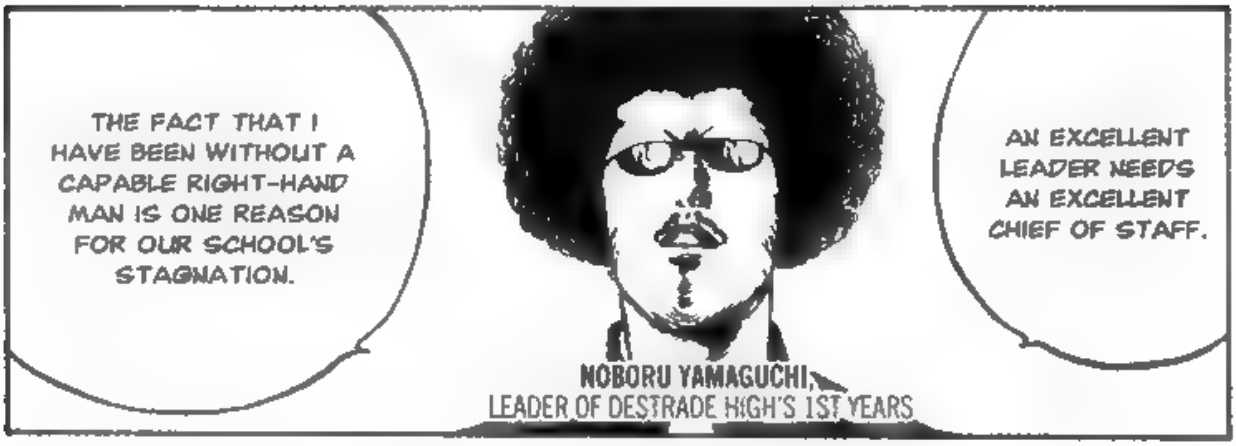
Happy New Year! Let's keep things rockin with the Hokuto Corps this year, too!

This is the perfect opportunity, so I'm just gonna write it!

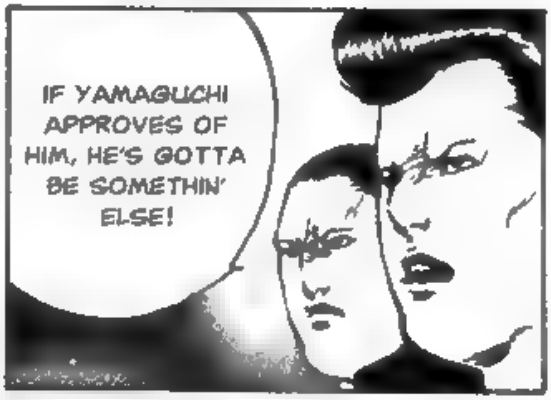
My name is

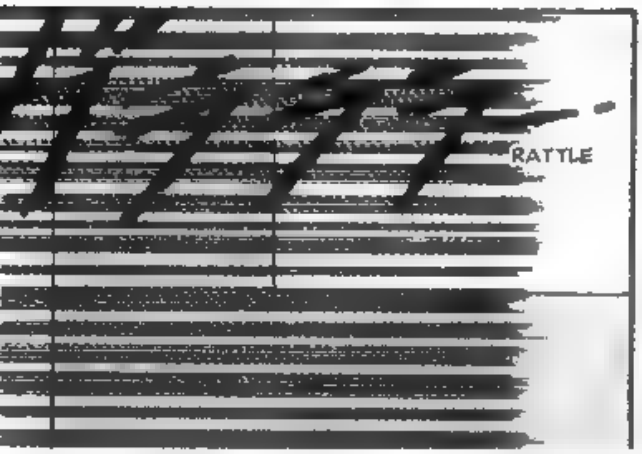
WHO IS THIS ONE FROM? AH, IT MUST BE HOKUTO'S HENCHMAN. WHAT WAS HIS NAME AGAIN?

CHAPTER EIGHTY **TALKING HEAD**


THE FACT THAT I HAVE BEEN WITHOUT A CAPABLE RIGHT-HAND MAN IS ONE REASON FOR OUR SCHOOL'S STAGNATION.
AN EXCELLENT LEADER NEEDS AN EXCELLENT CHIEF OF STAFF.
NOBORU YAMAGUCHI,
LEADER OF DESTRADE HIGH'S 1ST YEARS

HOWEVER, I HAVE AT LAST FOUND THE MAN SUITED TO BE MY SECOND-IN-COMMAND!
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY IT'S BECAUSE I COULDN'T FIND ANYONE WHO MEASURED UP TO MY STANDARDS...





HELLO. I'M AKIRA NAKAO.
AND I'M MICK! NICE TO MEET YOU, EVERYONE!
STARTING TODAY, THIS GUY [redacted] ONLY TO ME.
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKIN' WITH YA.
I COULD KNOCK YOU PUNKS OUT WITH A SINGLE PUNCH!

NO ONE ASKED FOR A STINKIN' VENTRILO-QUIST!
HEY, NOW HOLD ON HERE!
I THINK YOU SHOULD WATCH YOUR TIMING A LITTLE MORE
SHUT UP, IDIOT!
DON'T BE RUDE.
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANYTHING MORE ABOUT VENTRILOQUISTS! WHY WOULD YOU WANNA CRUSH SOMEONE'S DREAMS BY TALKIN' LIKE THAT?
HE DISLO-CATED ISHI-KAWA'S JAW!
GRIND
TAKE THE AMERI-CANS, FOR EXAMPLE. WHEN THEY WATCH A MAGICIAN, THEY KNOW THERE'S SOME KINDA TRICK INVOLVED, BUT THEY CAN STILL ENJOY THE ACT. BUT IF A JAPANESE PER-SON WAS THERE, HE'D FRICKIN' TRY TO EXPOSE THE SECRETS!
GO AHEAD.
LOOK, I'M NOT TRYIN' TO POKE FUN OR NUTHIN', BUT THERE'S SOMETHIN' I GOTTA ASK. YOU MIND?
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO?
"ENTER-TAINMENT"?
IT'S THE SAME THING WITH PRO WRESTLING! EVEN IF IT'S FAKE, IT'S STILL ENTERTAIN-MENT, SO ENJOY IT, DAMMIT!

WHICH ONE OF THEM'S YOUR NUMBER 2?
. . . . . .
I DON'T REALLY THINK YOU HAD TO ASK HIM...
OK, LET'S ASK. WHICH ONE OF YOU IS IT?
AH. EVEN I DIDN'T SEE THAT ONE COMING.
WHAT'S WITH THIS ATTITUDE OF YOURS?
GIMME A BREAK! IT'S OBVIOUS THAT IT'S NOT
WE'VE COME A LONG WAY TOGETHER, MICK, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE ONLY ONE OF US CAN BE HIS RIGHT-HAND MAN.

. . . . . .
IT'S KIND OF AN OLD JOKE, BUT...
WORKS FOR ME!
WELL, HOW ABOUT THIS? ONE OF YOU GOES BY "NUMBER" AND THE OTHER GOES BY "2." PUT 'EM TOGETHER AND YOU'VE GOT "NUMBER 2."
WHAT? YOU'RE A TRIO?!
AND WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
THIS GUY'S TOUGH ENOUGH TO BE YOUR NUMBER 2, RIGHT? 'CUZ IF HE AIN'T, THEN WE AIN'T RECOGNIZING HIM!
HEY, YOU GOT A SECOND, YAMA-GUCHI?
THIS REMINDS ME OF THE TOKYO COMIC SHOW...
YOU CAN TAKE THE BACK SEAT!

RIGHT.
SHOW 'EM!
HEH HEH. IT LOOKS LIKE YOU STILL HAVEN'T GRASPED THIS GUY'S POWER. HE'S NOT JUST SOME LOWLY [illegible]!
SO THIS GUY'S FOR REAL?!
H-HE TOOK OFF THE PUPPET!
SWP
SWP
パク
パク
FLAP
FLAP
WHAT'S THIS? IT SEEMS...

WITH MY VOICE.
FLAP FLAP
パク パク
THAT THERE'S A DELAY...
FLAP FLAP
パク パク
ANYHOW, FROM TODAY ON, HE'S MY RIGHT-HAND MAN. ANYTHING HE SAYS, TREAT IT LIKE I SAID IT!
WHAT USE IS THAT IN A FIGHT?!
I THINK I'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE SOME-WHERE...
And it's tough to show in a manga!
WELL? IT'S LIKE A SATELLITE BROADCAST OR SOMETHING, HUH?
GRARR, I CAN'T TAKE IT! I DON'T CARE WHICH ONE OF Y'ALL IT IS! COME GET SOME!
DAMMIT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WHAT ANY-MORE!
"HE"? WHICH ONE?!

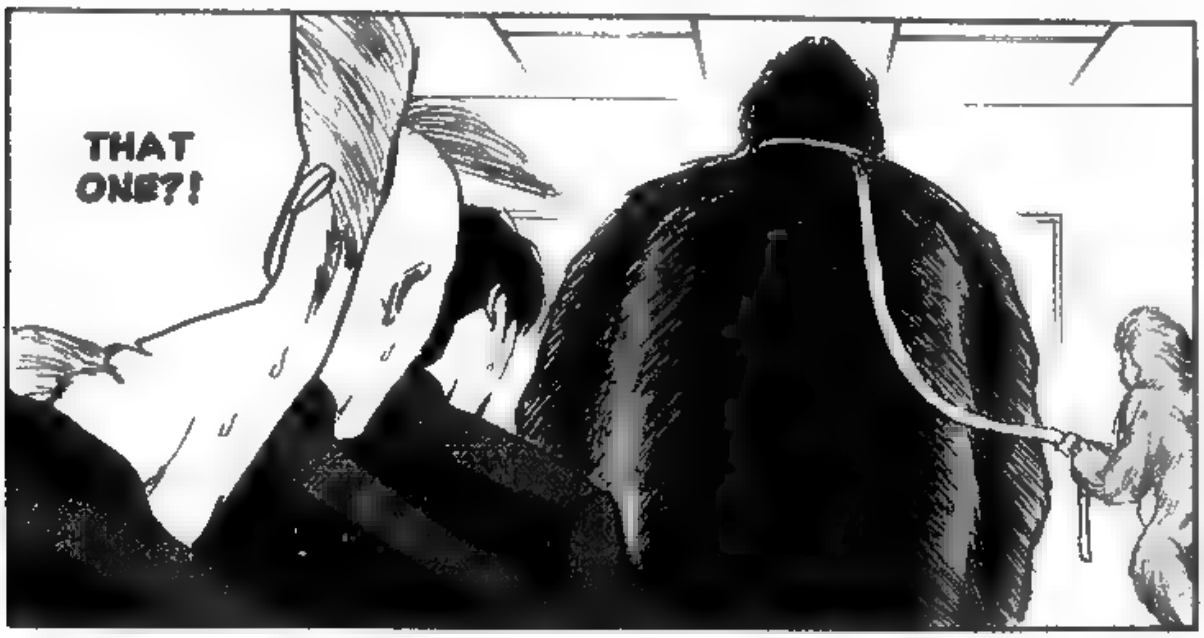
MICK'S THE STRONGEST!

CHAPTER EIGHTY ONE: **A HOLE IN LOTTA LOVE**

GIMME A FRICKIN' BREAK!
K-CLOP
K-CLOP
BUT AS THE HORSE IS CURRENTLY RAMPAGING ON THE FIELD, WE'LL HAVE TO PUT PRACTICE ON HOLD FOR A WHILE.

YES, YOU MUSTN'T MAKE FUN OF ANIMALS. THEY'RE QUITE INTELLIGENT, AND IF YOU TREAT THEM WELL, THEY CAN BRING YOU GREAT COMFORT.
BLACK DRAGON HERE IS PRETTY SMART. HE CAN UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU SAY.
YEARGH!
CHOMP
THUS, WE SOON FOUNDED THE ANIMAL APPRECIATION CLUB, AND WE ALL BROUGHT PETS TO SCHOOL.
Wasn't it a horse that got us pissed off in the first place?
ANIMALS ARE COOL!
HMM, REALLY?
THEY MIGHT EVEN BRING PEACE TO YOUR TROUBLED HEARTS.
WOW, EVERYONE [redacted] ALL KINDS OF PETS!
TARO. PRETTY COMMON NAME, THOUGH.
HE'S RATHER CUTE. WHAT'S HIS NAME?
I JUST [redacted] MY NORMAL, EVERYDAY DOG!

HOW VERY HOKUTO-ESQUE.
I WAS GOING TO BRING A LION AS PROOF OF MY DOMINANCE...BUT AS IT WAS ON THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST, I COULD ONLY BRING THIS PICTURE.
MOVING RIGHT ALONG.
BY THE WAY, MY NAME IS—
UH, I [illegible] MY HAMSTER, BUT...
MAEDA-KUN, HAVEN'T YOU BROUGHT ANY-THING?
HUH?
TO KNOW THAT YOU ALL CARE ABOUT ANIMALS.
IN ANY EVENT, IT MAKES ME HAPPY...
MY CONDO-LENCES
HAYA-SHIDA'S PET ATE IT.
OH? WHO IS THAT?
HOLD ON. SOMEONE HASN'T HAD THEIR TURN YET.
YOU HAVE GENUINE CONCERN FOR THEM--AND IF YOU HAVE THAT, YOU CAN BECOME KINDER TOWARD [illegible] TOO.

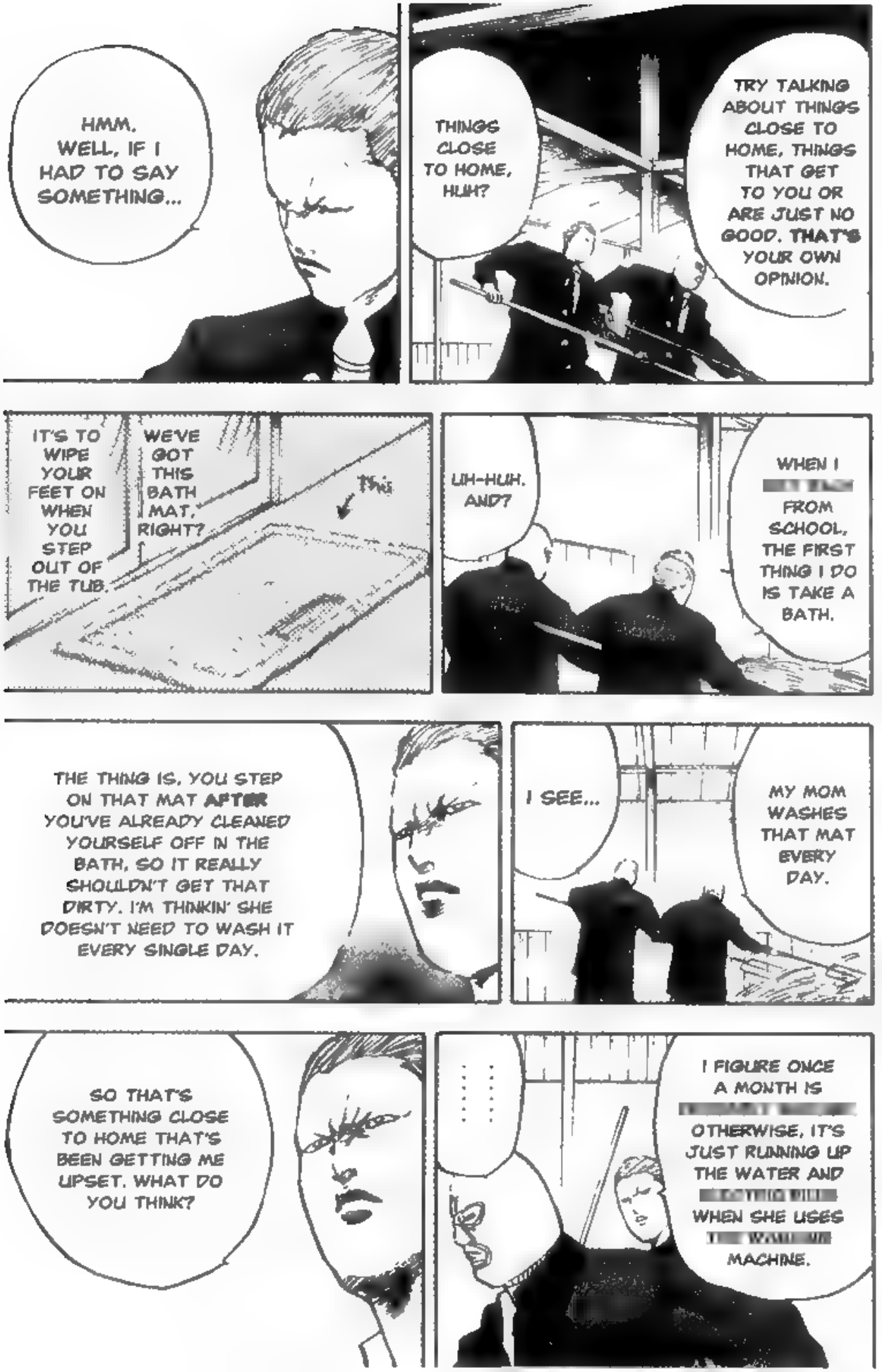


I LIKE THE EXPRESSION ON THE MONKEY'S FACE.

CHAPTER EIGHTY-TWO: **MAGIC BATH MAT**

MAEDA IS CHANGING OUT THE HORSE'S STABLE LITTER
HOW COME I'VE GOTTA DO THIS?!
SKSH
YOU'RE HERE, TOO?!
WHAT ARE YOU GRIPING ABOUT?
SKSH
I'M NOT EVEN THE ONE WHO SAID WE SHOULD KEEP PETS! AND WHEN I BROUGHT ONE IN, HAYASHIDA'S PET ATE IT! HOW DID THIS BECOME MY RESPONSIBILITY? AND HOW CAN A **HORSE** COUNT AS A FRICKIN' PET?!
HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO THE VOTING POLLS?
HEY, I'M NOT BITCHING! I HAVE A VALID ARGUMENT HERE!
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW UPSET YOU ARE-- YOU NEED TO GET THE JOB DONE, AND DO IT WELL. IF YOU JUST BITCH WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING, PEOPLE WILL THINK YOU'RE NO GOOD.
YOU COMPLAIN A LOT, BUT YOU DON'T **DO** ANYTHING YOU PROBABLY THINK THAT YOUR SINGLE VOTE WON'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE, TOO IF THE WORLD WAS MADE UP OF GUYS LIKE YOU, NOTHING WOULD EVER GET DONE!
VOTING POLLS? NO, I HAVEN'T, BUT--

ANYWAY, THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO'RE EVEN MORE IRRESPONSIBLE THAN ME. THAT'S WHY JAPAN IS GOING DOWN THE TUBES.
High school students can't vote, can they?
THAT'S SURPRISINGLY CONSCIENTIOUS OF YOU.
INCIDENTALLY, I GO EVERY YEAR. I'M NOT BOASTING, THOUGH: IT'S MY DUTY.
OH? SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT THE YEN LOSING ITS VALUE HAS DIRECTLY AFFECTED YOUR LIFE?
SKRSH
SKRSH
STOCK PRICES ARE PLUMMETING, THE YEN IS LOSING ITS VALUE, THE ECONOMY'S IN RUINS. THERE'S NOT A SINGLE SAVING GRACE.
IS THAT A FACT? AND JUST HOW IS JAPAN "DOWN THE TUBES"?
YOU KNOW NOTHING! HAVING A STRONG YEN ISN'T NECESSARILY A GOOD THING. IF ITS VALUE GETS TOO HIGH, IT'LL DEAL A BLOW TO DEVELOPING BUSINESS VENTURES OVERSEAS! DON'T ACT LIKE YOU KNOW IT ALL JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN SEE **PART** OF THE BIG PICTURE!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, BUT I **DO** KNOW THAT IT'S NOT GOOD FOR THE YEN TO DEPRECIATE.
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE JUST TAKING OTHER PEOPLE'S OPINIONS AND ACTING AS IF THEY WERE YOUR OWN. YOU NEED TO LOOK AROUND YOU AND TALK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE EXPERIENCING!
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YOU MAY BE RIGHT.
I THINK ALL YOU'RE DOING IS REPEATING WHAT YOU READ IN THE PAPER.


HMM. WELL, IF I HAD TO SAY SOMETHING...
THINGS CLOSE TO HOME, HUH?
TRY TALKING ABOUT THINGS CLOSE TO HOME, THINGS THAT GET TO YOU OR ARE JUST NO GOOD. THAT'S YOUR OWN OPINION.
IT'S TO WIPE YOUR FEET ON WHEN YOU STEP OUT OF THE TUB.
WE'VE GOT THIS BATH MAT, RIGHT?
This
UH-HUH. AND?
WHEN I [redacted] FROM SCHOOL, THE FIRST THING I DO IS TAKE A BATH.
THE THING IS, YOU STEP ON THAT MAT AFTER YOU'VE ALREADY CLEANED YOURSELF OFF IN THE BATH, SO IT REALLY SHOULDN'T GET THAT DIRTY. I'M THINKIN' SHE DOESN'T NEED TO WASH IT EVERY SINGLE DAY.
I SEE...
MY MOM WASHES THAT MAT EVERY DAY.
SO THAT'S SOMETHING CLOSE TO HOME THAT'S BEEN GETTING ME UPSET. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
. . . . . .
I FIGURE ONCE A MONTH IS [redacted] OTHERWISE, IT'S JUST RUNNING UP THE WATER AND [redacted] WHEN SHE USES [redacted] MACHINE.

BUT WHAT ABOUT WHEN YOU GET INTO THE TUB?
YEAH, EXAC-TLY.
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT SINCE YOUR FEET ARE CLEAN WHEN YOU WIPE THEM, THERE'S NO NEED TO WASH THE MAT EVERY DAY, RIGHT?
SEE, I TOLD YOU. YOU HAVE TO CONSIDER THE BIG PICTURE. I GUESS YOUR MOM WINS THIS ONE.
OH! WHEN I'M GETTING INTO THE TUB, MY FEET ARE STILL DIRTY WHEN I'M STEPPING ON THE MAT! I WAS ONLY THINKING ABOUT WHEN I GET OUT!
H-HUH?!
PWHAA
NOT GONNA HAPPEN.
IF WE COULD STRAIGHTEN OUT ALL PROBLEMS LIKE THIS, JAPAN WOULD BECOME A BETTER PLACE, WOULDN'T IT?

THERE SURE IS A LOT OF TALK IN THIS MANGA.

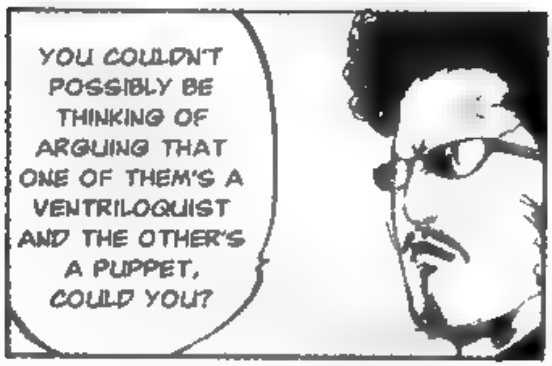
CHAPTER EIGHTY-THREE: **WHO NEEDS YOU?**

IT HAS TO DO WITH THE DIRECTION [redacted] HAS TAKEN.
THERE IS ONE REASON I HAVE CALLED YOU HERE TODAY
DESTRADE EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE MEETING

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE, AND NOT SOMETHING I CAN DECIDE ON MY OWN. THAT'S WHY I'D LIKE TO DO THIS DEMOCRATICALLY, AND HAVE THE MAJORITY DETERMINE WHAT WE SHOULD DO.
LATELY, A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE SAYING THAT DESTRADE SHOULD BE OUT THERE ATTACKING THE OTHER SCHOOLS.

THE BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN SCHOOLS IS GOING THROUGH A LOT OF CHANGES RIGHT NOW. I DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO START TRYIN' TO THROW OUR WEIGHT AROUND WHEN THINGS ARE SO UNSTABLE.
THEN LET ME GO FIRST. I DON'T USUALLY SAY NUTHIN' TOO SERIOUS, BUT THIS TIME I HAVE AN OPINION AND I'D LIKE IT TO BE HEARD.

WAIT JUST A MINUTE!
ALRIGHT, THAT'S TWO-TO-ONE IN FAVOR OF MAKING A MOVE.
I VOTE FOR.
ME, TOO


YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE THINKING OF ARGUING THAT ONE OF THEM'S A VENTRILOQUIST AND THE OTHER'S A PUPPET, COULD YOU?

UM, WELL... IT'S JUST...
WHAT? DO YOU HAVE AN OBJECTION?

IF YOU SAW TOSHIYUKI NISHIDA PLAYING THE ROLE OF GENTA IKENAKA ON TV, WOULD YOU SHOUT OUT, "HEY, THAT'S NOT GENTA IKENAKA, IT'S TOSHIYUKI NISHIDA!"?

UM... UH...
OH? WELL, I GUESS YOU'VE GROWN... ANYWAY, WHAT OBJECTION DO YOU HAVE?
That example was kinda hard to follow.
NO, I DON'T DO STUFF LIKE THAT.
HUH?! YOU, TOO?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT'S BEEN BUGGING ME, TOO.
WHAT?!
TH-THIS GUY'S HAIRCUT IS BUGGING ME.
HEH HEH. NOW THINGS ARE GETTING LIVELY.
YOU GOT A PROBLEM?!
GOOD! 'CUZ IF WE'RE GONNA BE TALKING SMACK, YOU WON'T BEAT ME
IF YOU TWO HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO EACH OTHER, YOU SHOULD GET IT OUT IN THE OPEN. THAT'S WHAT A DEMOCRATIC DISCUSSION IS ALL ABOUT.
RATTLE
SCREW YOU! I'M OUTTA HERE!
ISHIKAWA! GET BACK HERE AND CONTINUE WITH THE DISCUSSION!
ENOUGH OF THIS!
SLAM

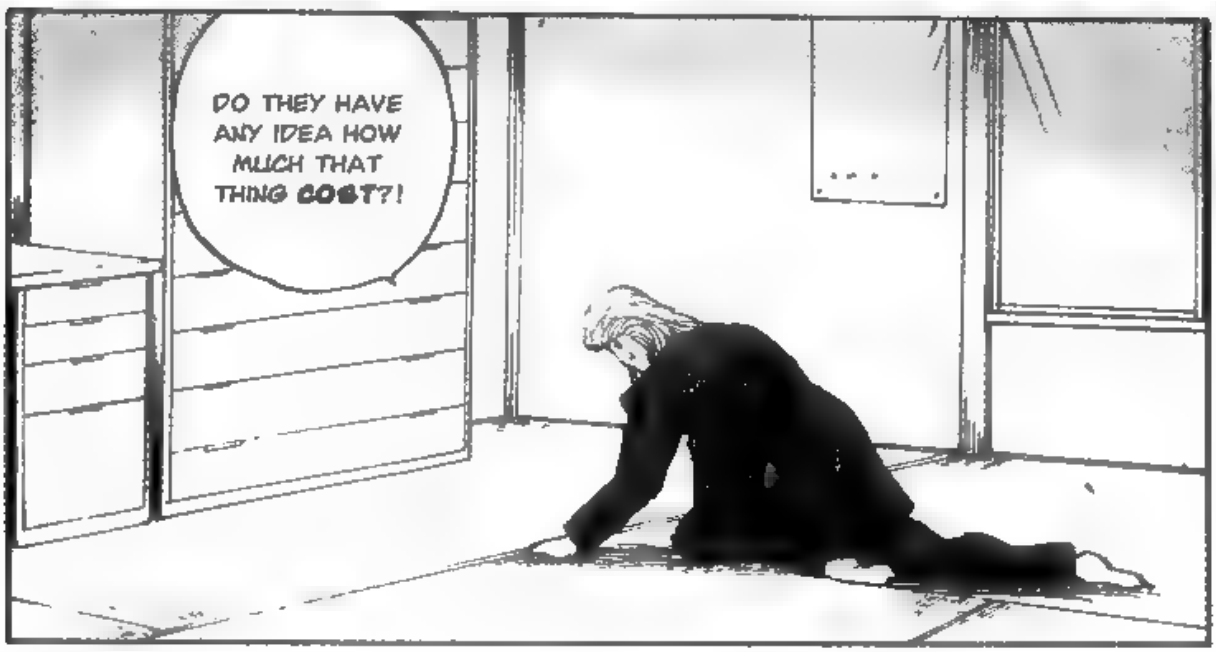
DAMMIT! YAMAGUCHI'S ALWAYS SIDING WITH THOSE TWO IDIOTS!
CREAK
キー
コ
キー
コ
CREAK
WELL, I DO KINDA GET THE FEELING THAT YAMAGUCHI AND ME DON'T HAVE THE SAME SENSE OF HUMOR...
NO MATTER WHAT I SAY, HE JUST SMACKS ME AROUND... AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHY!
. . . . . .
I'VE LIVED MY LIFE DOIN' THINGS MY OWN WAY... BUT MAYBE EVEN DELINQUENTS HAVE TO COOPERATE WITH OTHERS.
WHAT'S THAT? YOU WANNA TAKE UP VENTRILOQUISM?!
I GUESS THIS MEANS I GOTTA TAKE UP VENTRILOQUISM.

YOUR... MASTER?
LEMME INTRODUCE YOU TO MY MASTER.
MY NAME'S PAUL.
HUH? WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?!
AND I'M PAUL AT YER SERVICE!
NICE TO MEET YOU. I AM KAMIYAMA.
THERE'S A DELAY WITH MY VOICE.
FLAP FLAP
HM? IT SEEMS THAT...
FLAP FLAP
WATCHA MUMBLING ABOUT?
SO THAT NAKAO GUY'S NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO IT...
TH-THAT TRICK! HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?!

HUH? FOR WHAT?
I SUPPOSE THAT'LL BE ALRIGHT. WELL THEN, LET'S GO SHOPPING.
BWEH
TAKE ME AS YOUR STUDENT!
PLEASE!
WELL, I'M JUST A NOVICE, SO HOW ABOUT THE CHEAPEST ONE?
WHICH ONE WILL YOU CHOOSE?
FUKUWA JUT
SHOP
"THE CHEAPEST ONE"?! WAKE UP! DO YOU THINK YOU'LL EVER [redacted] VENTRILOQUISM WITH THAT KIND OF ATTITUDE?!
WHAT THE HELL?!
BLGH!
SMACK
BUT... ISN'T THAT WHAT THE PROS USE?
FUKUWA
SHOP
WITH THAT IN MIND, THIS IS THE DOLL YOU MUST PURCHASE.
OK, I GET YA.
YOU SHOULD GET A [redacted] YOU'RE A NOVICE. THIS WILL BRING YOU CLOSER TO THE SPIRIT OF VENTRILOQUISM. YOU MUST EMBRACE IT, WITH NO REGARDS TO COST!

HI THERE! MY NAME'S DAVID!
THE NEXT DAY
I'VE CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT YOU, ISHIKAWA.
HUH?
GWP
NICE TO SMELL YA! YOU WANNA FIGHT? WA-HE?!
SAY HELLO TO MY NEW PARTNER.
THAT'S EXACTLY THE KIND OF SPIRIT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED! I THINK I'LL HAVE TO RECONSIDER THE [redacted] OUR GROUP.
YEAH. YOU SHOWED ME.
I guess it was worth the $1,500!
YOU FINALLY GET ME, YAMAGUCHI?
LISTEN UP! I'VE GOT AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE!
HUH? THEN THAT MEANS..

. . . . . .
I HAVE A FEELING WE'RE GOING TO GET ALONG JUST FINE.
AT YER SERVICE!
AS OF TODAY, THIS IS THE NEW NUMBER 2!


DO THEY HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH THAT THING COST?!
. . .

$1,500

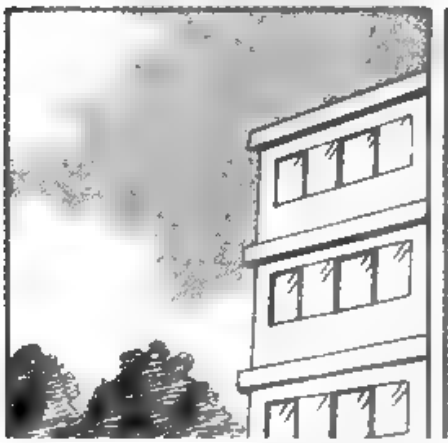
CHAPTER EIGHTY-FOUR: **STRAY CAT**

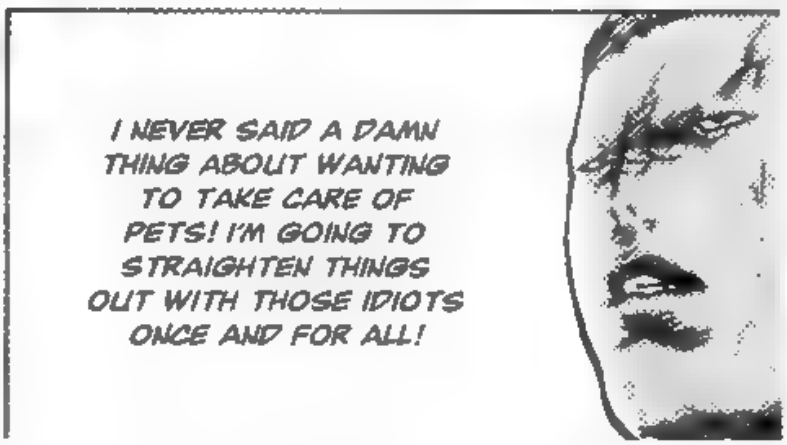
AS IF HERALDING THE IMPENDING WINTER
THE SUN'S LIGHT SHONE DIMLY THROUGH A CRACK IN THE CLOUDS
IT'S STRANGE... WHEN YOU SPEND A WHILE AROUND ANIMALS, YOU START TO KNOW WHAT THEY'RE THINKING.
EASY BOY. YOU READY TO EAT? I'LL GO GET IT READY FOR YOU.
BWRR
IT'S LIKE, THIS IS THE FIRST PLACE I'VE FELT AT PEACE SINCE COMING TO THIS SCHOOL.
OH, SO YOU'RE HUNGRY, TOO? HANG ON A MINUTE.
BEING AROUND THESE GUYS CAN BE PRETTY SOOTHING.
CLUCK
WOOF WOOF
WELL, I'D BETTER GO CLEAN THE STABLES.
AH, THE SCHOOL DAY'S OVER ALREADY. NOW YOU ALL BE GOOD UNTIL TOMORROW!
BRRRING

WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING?!
WH...
SKRACK

WHAT THE HECK AM I AT SCHOOL FOR?!
AND ISN'T IT TIME TO BE GOING HOME?

I LET MY GUARD DOWN FOR A SECOND, AND ALL OF A SUDDEN I'M AN ANIMAL LOVER?! I SHOULD BE AFRAID OF MYSELF!
"SOOTHING"?! JEEZ, I WAS ON THE VERGE OF BEIN' BRAIN-WASHED!




I NEVER SAID A DAMN THING ABOUT WANTING TO TAKE CARE OF PETS! I'M GOING TO STRAIGHTEN THINGS OUT WITH THOSE IDIOTS ONCE AND FOR ALL!

WELL, SIMPLY PUT...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I DON'T UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING
I KNOW THIS COMES AS A BLOW TO YOU MOST OF ALL, MAEDA, AND I'M SORRY.
WH-WHAT?
WHAT?! I'M GONNA FRICKIN' KILL YOU SONS OF BITCHES!
WE'RE SICK OF OUR PETS, AND ARE THINKING OF GETTING RID OF THEM.
HEY, FREDDIE LEARNED HOW TO THROW A 100 MPH PITCH!
And - Hokuto STILL sucks at bunting!
IT WAS THE SAME WITH THE BASEBALL CLUB! ALL THAT STUPID TALK ABOUT GOING TO THE FINALS OR WHATEVER, BUT IN THE END YOU JUST LOST INTEREST! IT'S DEAD IN THE WATER!
YOU GUYS ALWAYS DO THIS! YOU GET ALL WORKED UP OVER SOMETHING AND THEN YOU LOSE INTEREST IN IT! YOU'RE LIKE A BUNCH OF KIDS!
THIS IS ALL I'LL SAY: DON'T YOU FEEL SORRY FOR THOSE ANIMALS? HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT HOW THEY FEEL?!
ENOUGH!
AND HE ALWAYS RUNS TO THIRD BASE AFTER A HIT, HUH?
YES, BUT HE STILL WON'T LEARN THE RULES.

HAH! SEE? RIGHT FROM THE START, YOU WERE ONLY THINKING ABOUT YOURSELF!
'CUZ WE'RE NOT ANIMALS.
HOW THEY FEEL? WE CAN'T KNOW SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT, MAN...
WELL, IT [redacted] THEM HAPPY WHEN YOU [redacted] HEADS LIKE THIS, [redacted]
FOR EXAMPLE, WHAT DO YOU DO TO MAKE A CAT HAPPY?
THE FACT REMAINS, MAEDA-KUN, THAT WE ARE **HUMAN**. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO UNDERSTAND HOW ANIMALS FEEL ABOUT THINGS.
HUH?
AND HAVE YOU HEARD THIS DIRECTLY FROM A CAT?
SHOCK
YOU SEE? WE HAVE ALL INTERNALIZED THIS NOTION, BUT THE TRUTH IS, RUBBING THEM MIGHT ACTUALLY TICKLE. IT COULD [redacted] DISAGREE- [redacted]
NO. I GUESS I HAVEN'T.

GAH!
THIS, TOO, IS NO DOUBT THE RESULT OF HUMANITY'S DESIRE FOR SELF-SATISFACTION. IF YOU CAN'T EVEN PRIDE YOURSELF IN KNOWING WHAT CATS LIKE, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THOSE ANIMALS?
SO I JUST MADE UP THE IDEA THAT THOSE ANIMALS LIKE IT WHEN I LOOK AFTER THEM? NO, IT CAN'T BE...
THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY BECOMING A CAT.
NO! THOSE ANIMALS AND I HAD A CONNECTION! AN UNDER-STANDING!
SO I JUST IMAGINED MY CONNECTION WITH THE ANIMALS? THEN WHY AM I BITCHING OUT THESE GUYS FOR NEVER TAKING CARE OF THEM?
IF YOU CAN FULLY COMPREHEND A CAT'S WAY OF THINKING, I WILL ACCEPT THAT ANIMALS AND HUMANS CAN UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER. I WANT YOU TO PROVE THAT YOU CAN FATHOM THE ANIMAL MIND.
HUH? A CAT?
MAEDA'S HOUSE
A GOOD POINT. FULFILLING SUCH A SUDDEN REQUEST MAY WELL BE AN IMPOSSIBILITY... ALRIGHT! I'LL GIVE YOU A WEEK
YEAH, BUT HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO JUST "BECOME" A CAT?

THIS MAKES FOR A WELL-BALANCED DIET, AND IS GOOD EVEN IF YOU'RE **NOT** BECOMING A CAT.
YESTERDAY, I STARTED EATING A CAN OF FISH FLAKES WITH MY DINNER...

NO, THIS ISN'T GONNA CUT IT.

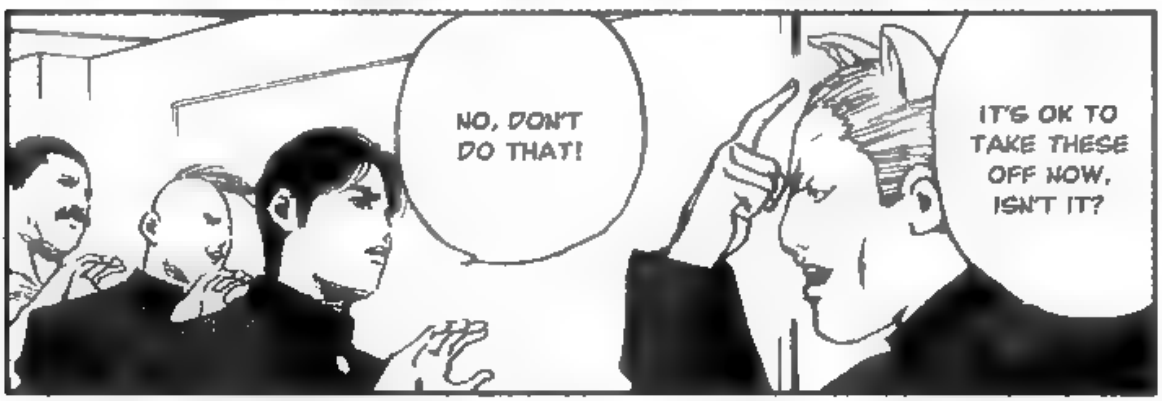
IS TO TRY ADDING "MEOW" TO THE ENDS OF MY SENTENCES.

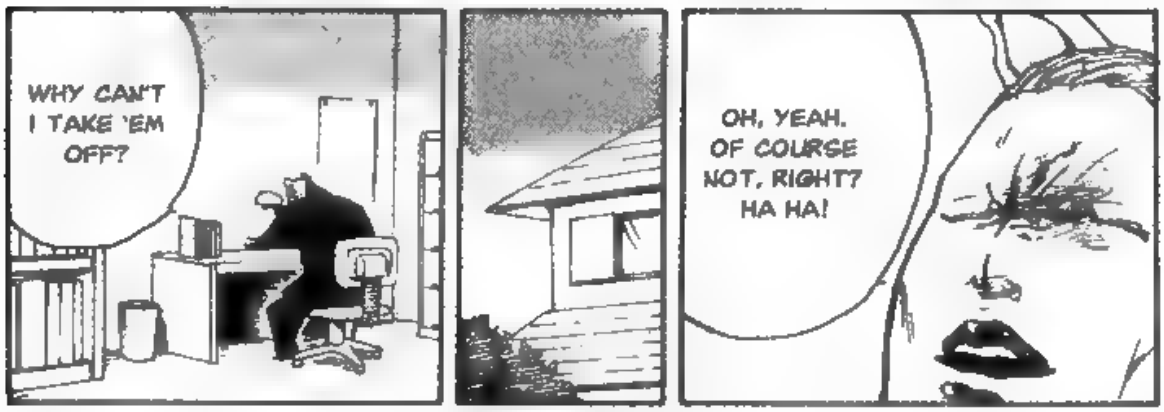
THE ONLY THING LEFT NOW...

THIS IS ALL JUST PRETEND!
BAM
WHAT THE HECK AM I DOING?!
I'M AN [redacted] HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT... MEOW.
GOOD MORNING... MEOW
YEAH. I GIVE UP.
MAEDA-KUN! YOU LOOK COMPLE-TELY WORN OUT.
HUH?
KAMI-YAMA.
AND SO A WEEK WENT BY WITHOUT ANY SORT OF PROGRESS
HUH?!
ACTUALLY, YOU'VE ALREADY MADE AN EXCELLENT CAT.
I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. NO MATTER HOW HARD PEOPLE TRY, WE'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW ANIMALS THINK. I COULD NEVER HAVE BECOME CAT.
EXCELLENT WORK, MAEDA-KUN!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
THANKS. I FINALLY DID IT!
WHY IS IT WE CAN'T UNDERSTAND ANIMALS? BECAUSE PEOPLE HAVE EGOS, AND **PRIDE**. BUT YOU'VE REALIZED THAT, YOU'VE CLEARED THE HURDLE!

HM? WELL, NOTHING REALLY. YOU CAN JUST GO BACK TO BEING YOUR OLD SELF.
I WANT TO ASK YOU SOMETHING, JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE... WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?
.....

THERE'S JUST ONE MORE THING I WANNA ASK YOU.
DON'T TELL ME YOU WERE **REALLY** TRYING TO BECOME A CAT? HA HA!
HA HA! WELL, I'M GLAD TO HEAR IT.





I DEFINITELY THINK THEY'RE MESSING WITH YOU.

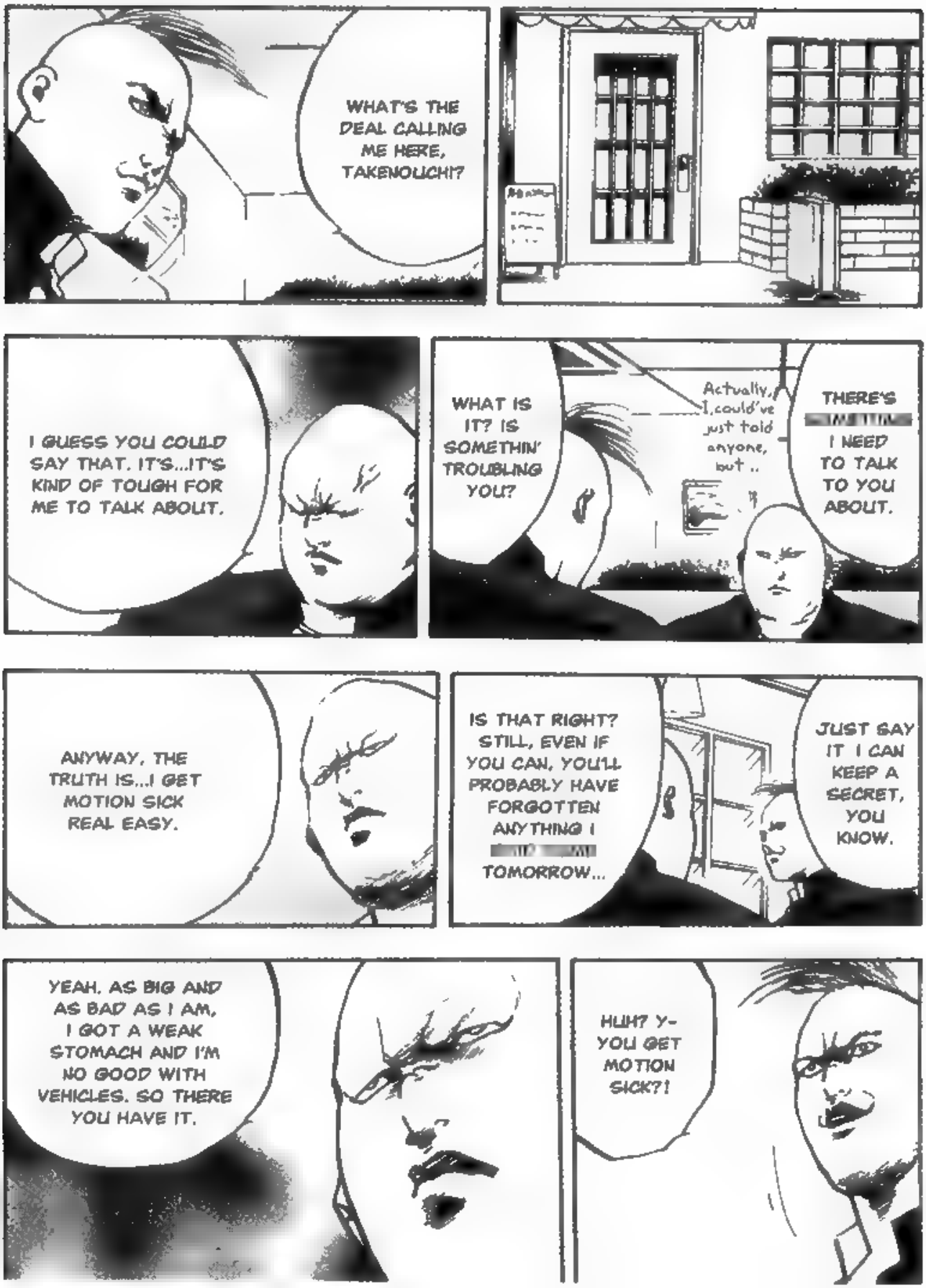
THESE ARE BANANAS. THAT MEANS THIS ONE MUST BE FROM THE GORILLA. BUT THAT RAISES ANOTHER QUESTION: HOW DID HE WRITE THE MAILING ADDRESS?

MANY HAPPY RETURNS!
Have a sweat New Year!

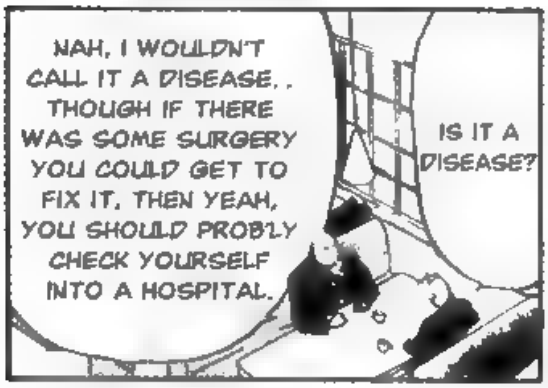
Shinjiro Hayashida
SEASON'S GREETINGS

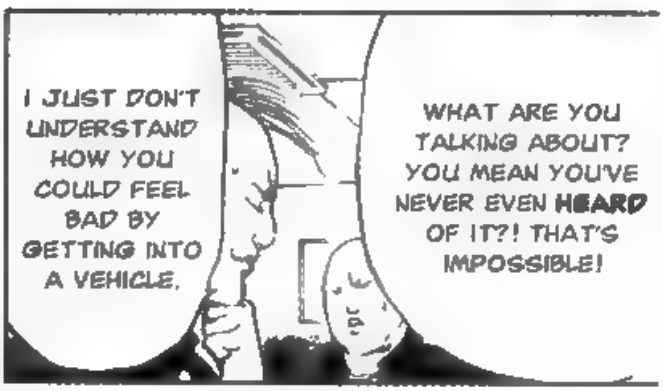
HAYASHIDA-KUN, YOU MISSPELLED "SWEET." AND WHAT IS THIS ANIMAL-LIKE THING SUPPOSED TO BE? EVEN THE GORILLA CAN DRAW BETTER THAN THIS...

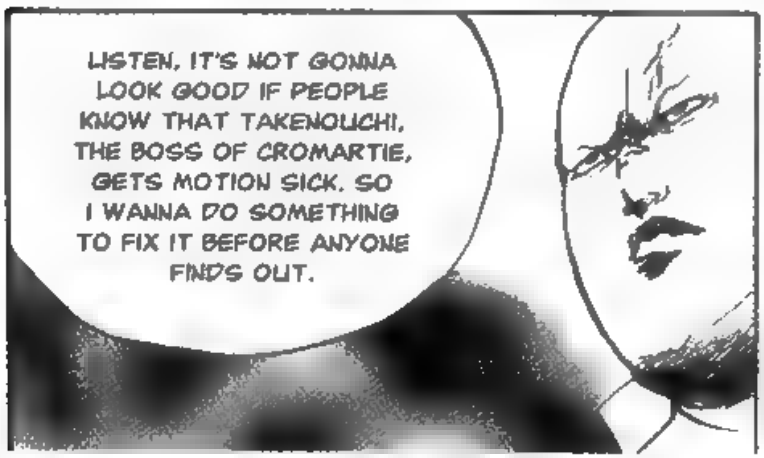
CHAPTER EIGHTY-FIVE: **GET IT ON**

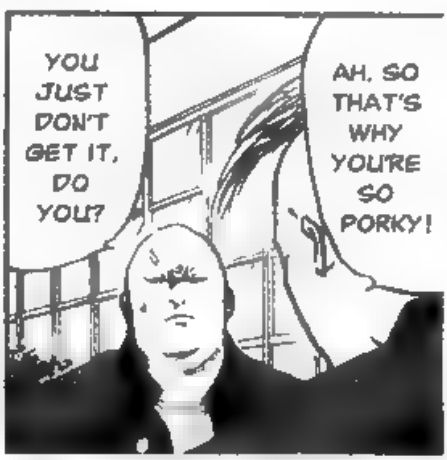

WHAT'S THE DEAL CALLING ME HERE, TAKENOUCHI?
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT. IT'S...IT'S KIND OF TOUGH FOR ME TO TALK ABOUT.
WHAT IS IT? IS SOMETHIN' TROUBLING YOU?
Actually, I could've just told anyone, but ..
THERE'S [redacted] I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
ANYWAY, THE TRUTH IS...I GET MOTION SICK REAL EASY.
IS THAT RIGHT? STILL, EVEN IF YOU CAN, YOU'LL PROBABLY HAVE FORGOTTEN ANYTHING I [redacted] TOMORROW...
JUST SAY IT I CAN KEEP A SECRET, YOU KNOW.
YEAH. AS BIG AND AS BAD AS I AM, I GOT A WEAK STOMACH AND I'M NO GOOD WITH VEHICLES. SO THERE YOU HAVE IT.
HUH? Y-YOU GET MOTION SICK?!

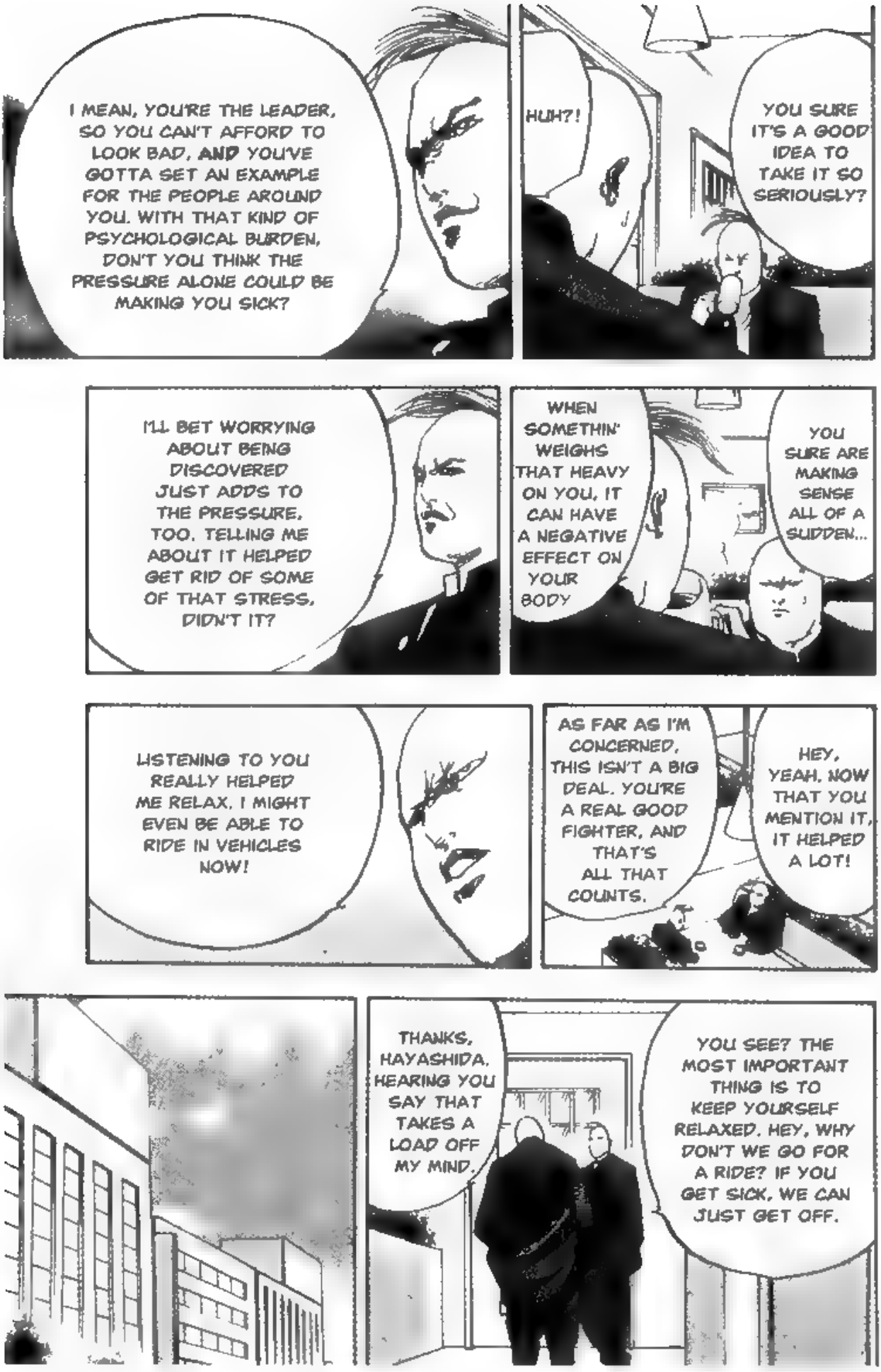
HUH?!
SAY, WHAT'S "MOTION SICK" MEAN?


IS IT A DISEASE?
NAH, I WOULDN'T CALL IT A DISEASE, . THOUGH IF THERE WAS SOME SURGERY YOU COULD GET TO FIX IT, THEN YEAH, YOU SHOULD PROBLY CHECK YOURSELF INTO A HOSPITAL.


I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU COULD FEEL BAD BY GETTING INTO A VEHICLE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU MEAN YOU'VE NEVER EVEN **HEARD** OF IT?! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

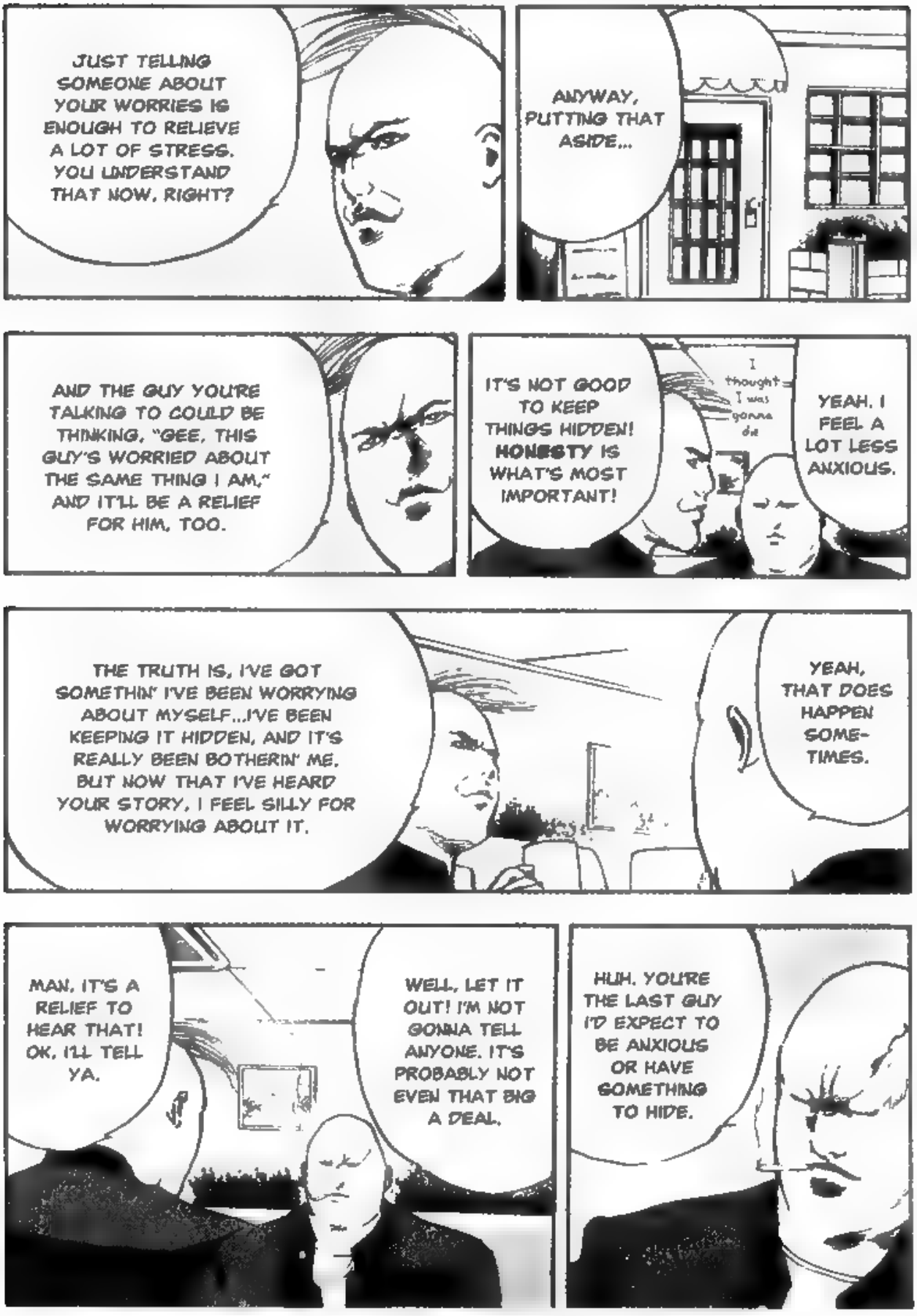

LISTEN, IT'S NOT GONNA LOOK GOOD IF PEOPLE KNOW THAT TAKENOUCHI, THE BOSS OF CROMARTIE, GETS MOTION SICK. SO I WANNA DO SOMETHING TO FIX IT BEFORE ANYONE FINDS OUT.


YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
AH, SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO PORKY!


I MEAN, YOU'RE THE LEADER, SO YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO LOOK BAD, AND YOU'VE GOTTA SET AN EXAMPLE FOR THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU. WITH THAT KIND OF PSYCHOLOGICAL BURDEN, DON'T YOU THINK THE PRESSURE ALONE COULD BE MAKING YOU SICK?
HUH?!
YOU SURE IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO TAKE IT SO SERIOUSLY?
I'LL BET WORRYING ABOUT BEING DISCOVERED JUST ADDS TO THE PRESSURE, TOO. TELLING ME ABOUT IT HELPED GET RID OF SOME OF THAT STRESS, DIDN'T IT?
WHEN SOMETHIN' WEIGHS THAT HEAVY ON YOU, IT CAN HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON YOUR BODY
YOU SURE ARE MAKING SENSE ALL OF A SUDDEN...
LISTENING TO YOU REALLY HELPED ME RELAX. I MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO RIDE IN VEHICLES NOW!
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, THIS ISN'T A BIG DEAL. YOU'RE A REAL GOOD FIGHTER, AND THAT'S ALL THAT COUNTS.
HEY, YEAH. NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT HELPED A LOT!
THANKS, HAYASHIDA. HEARING YOU SAY THAT TAKES A LOAD OFF MY MIND.
YOU SEE? THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO KEEP YOURSELF RELAXED. HEY, WHY DON'T WE GO FOR A RIDE? IF YOU GET SICK, WE CAN JUST GET OFF.

HE THREW UP AFTER THIS.

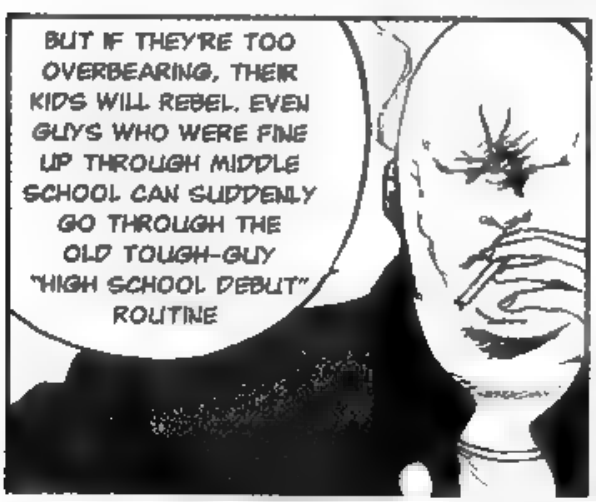
CHAPTER EIGHTY-SIX: THE SOUL OF MY HEAD


JUST TELLING SOMEONE ABOUT YOUR WORRIES IS ENOUGH TO RELIEVE A LOT OF STRESS. YOU UNDERSTAND THAT NOW, RIGHT?
ANYWAY, PUTTING THAT ASIDE...
AND THE GUY YOU'RE TALKING TO COULD BE THINKING, "GEE, THIS GUY'S WORRIED ABOUT THE SAME THING I AM," AND IT'LL BE A RELIEF FOR HIM, TOO.
IT'S NOT GOOD TO KEEP THINGS HIDDEN! HONESTY IS WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT!
I thought I was gonna die
YEAH. I FEEL A LOT LESS ANXIOUS.
THE TRUTH IS, I'VE GOT SOMETHIN' I'VE BEEN WORRYING ABOUT MYSELF...I'VE BEEN KEEPING IT HIDDEN, AND IT'S REALLY BEEN BOTHERIN' ME. BUT NOW THAT I'VE HEARD YOUR STORY, I FEEL SILLY FOR WORRYING ABOUT IT.
YEAH, THAT DOES HAPPEN SOME-TIMES.
MAN, IT'S A RELIEF TO HEAR THAT! OK, I'LL TELL YA.
WELL, LET IT OUT! I'M NOT GONNA TELL ANYONE. IT'S PROBABLY NOT EVEN THAT BIG A DEAL.
HUH. YOU'RE THE LAST GUY I'D EXPECT TO BE ANXIOUS OR HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE.

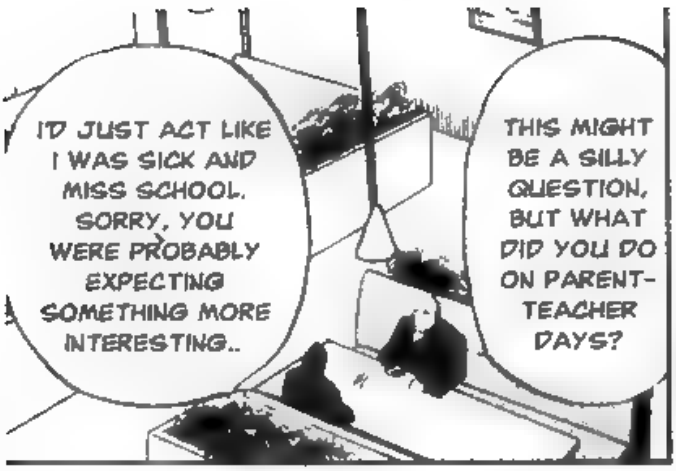
GWAH!
THE TRUTH IS, I'VE BEEN WEARIN' A HAIRPIECE.

THE THING IS, MY OLD MAN IS REALLY STRICT, AND MY BROTHERS ARE ALL HOTSHOT ELITES. I GUESS I SORT OF REBELLED AGAINST THAT, AND...NEXT THING I KNEW, I WAS ON MY WAY TO BEIN' A DELINQUENT.

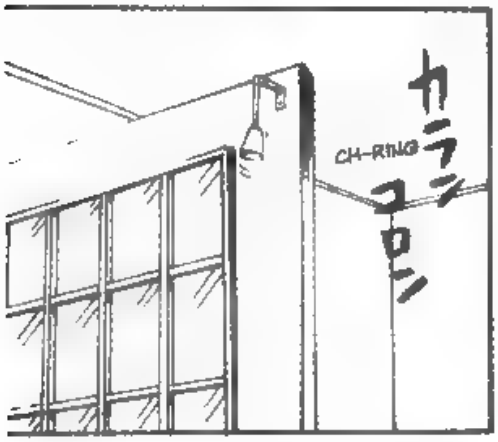
TH-THIS IS ON A WHOLE DIFFERENT LEVEL! WHAT I'M GOING THROUGH IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THIS!
IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL COMPARED TO **YOUR** PROBLEM, BUT...


BUT IF THEY'RE TOO OVERBEARING, THEIR KIDS WILL REBEL. EVEN GUYS WHO WERE FINE UP THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL CAN SUDDENLY GO THROUGH THE OLD TOUGH-GUY "HIGH SCHOOL DEBUT" ROUTINE

I HEAR YA. NO MATTER HOW **BAD** YOU MIGHT BE, YOUR FOLKS STILL CALL THE SHOTS AT HOME.
BUT MY DAD'S PRETTY SCARY, AND I STILL HAVEN'T FULLY MADE UP MY MIND. THAT'S WHY WHEN I'M AT HOME, I HAVE THIS HAIRSTYLE

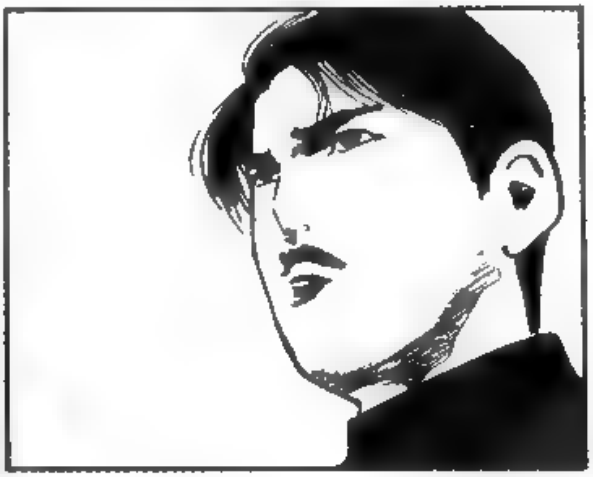

I'D JUST ACT LIKE I WAS SICK AND MISS SCHOOL. SORRY, YOU WERE PROBABLY EXPECTING SOMETHING MORE INTERESTING..
THIS MIGHT BE A SILLY QUESTION, BUT WHAT DID YOU DO ON PARENT-TEACHER DAYS?

ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
ACTUALLY, I'VE BEEN [redacted] THIS SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL.


CH-RING
カラン コロン

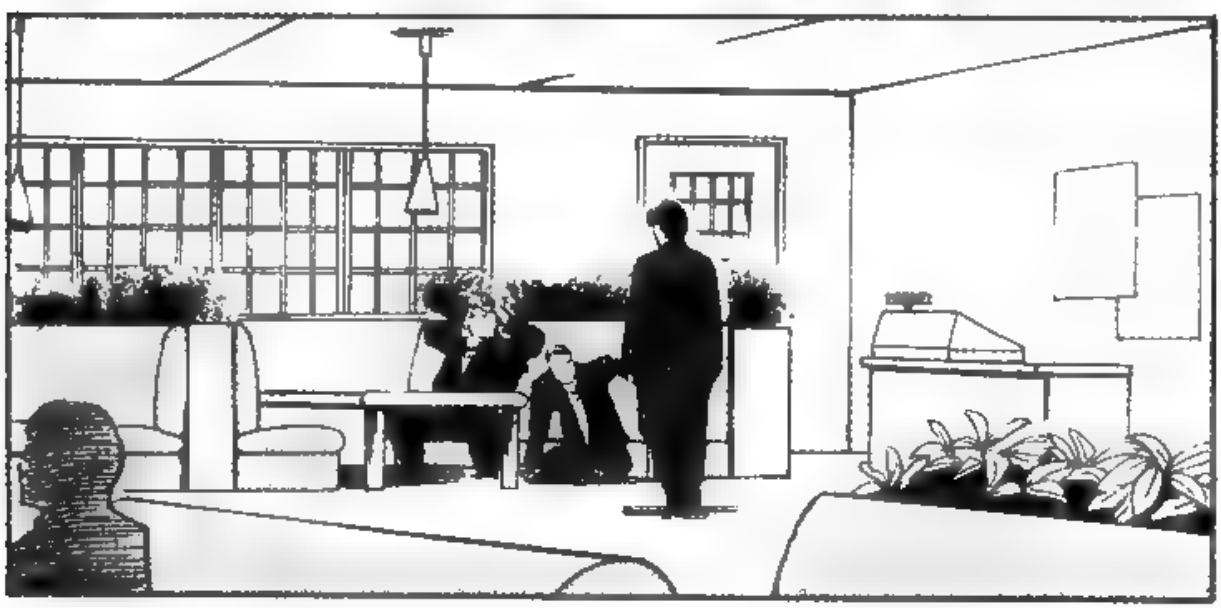
YOU KNOW, I'VE ACTUALLY RUN INTO YOU A FEW TIMES IN TOWN, BUT YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE. IF I PUT ON A SUIT, NOBODY EVER KNOWS IT'S ME!
ANYWAY, I BET IF YOU PUT ON A SUIT RIGHT NOW, YOU'D LOOK JUST LIKE A BUSINESS-MAN!

CRAP! PUT IT BACK ON, QUICK!
OH, NO! KAMI-YAMA!



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! HURRY! FORGET IT, I'LL GET IT!
IT FELL ON THE FLOOR!

YES.
WELCOME, SIR. TABLE FOR ONE?



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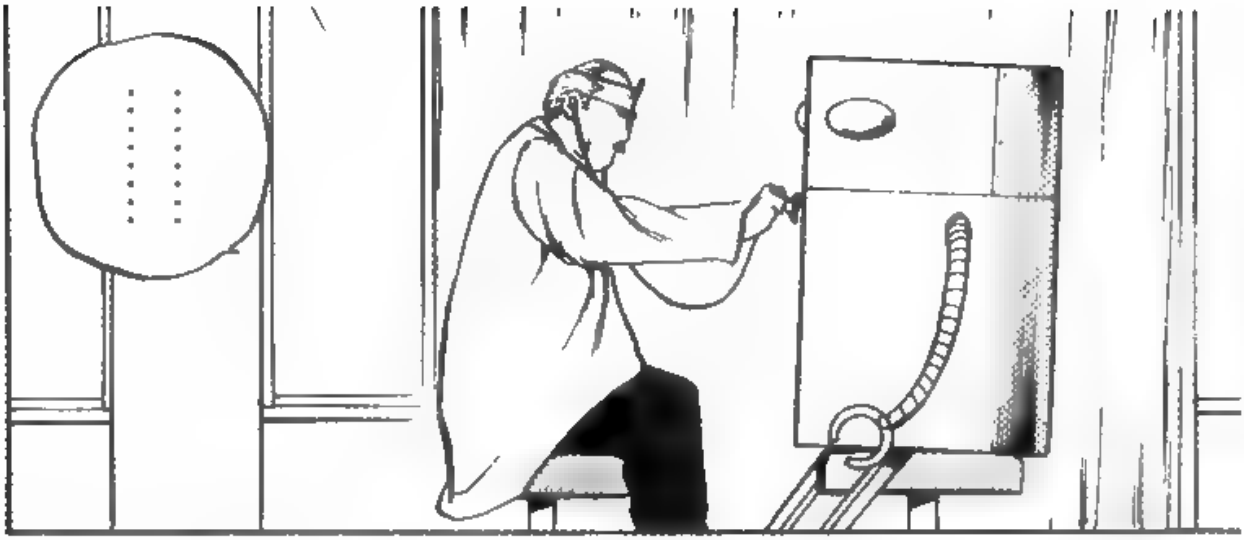
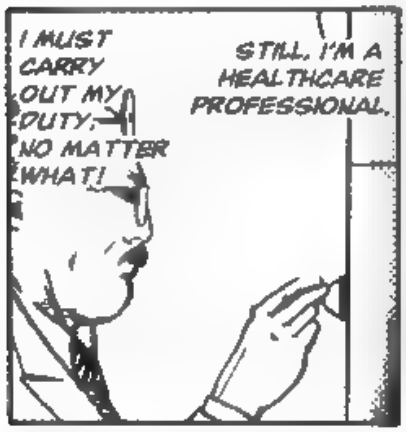
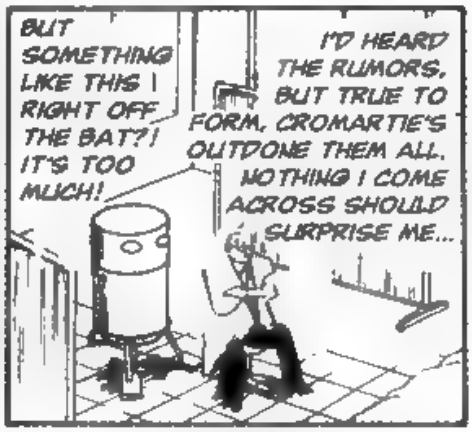
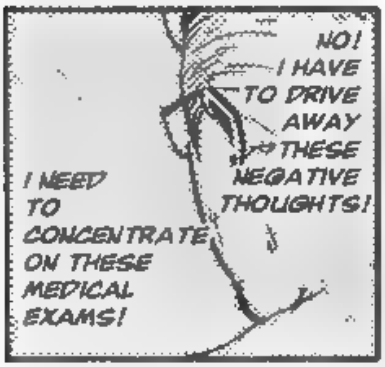
CHAPTER EIGHTY-SEVEN: **FACING HEALTH**



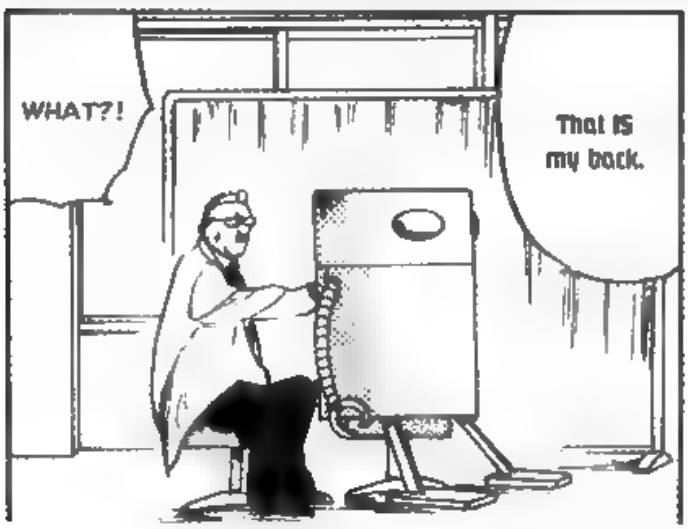

I MUST CARRY OUT MY DUTY, NO MATTER WHAT!
STILL, I'M A HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL.


BUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS I RIGHT OFF THE BAT?! IT'S TOO MUCH!
I'D HEARD THE RUMORS, BUT TRUE TO FORM, CROMARTIE'S OUTDONE THEM ALL. NOTHING I COME ACROSS SHOULD SURPRISE ME...

WAIT A MINUTE. HOW CAN I JUST HOLD UP THE STE-THOSCOPE SO CALMLY?


I NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON THESE MEDICAL EXAMS!
NO! I HAVE TO DRIVE AWAY THESE NEGATIVE THOUGHTS!

I THINK THAT WHAT I'M DOING WOULD LOOK QUITE STUPID.
SHOULD ANYONE SEE ME, HOWEVER...


WHAT?!
That IS my back.

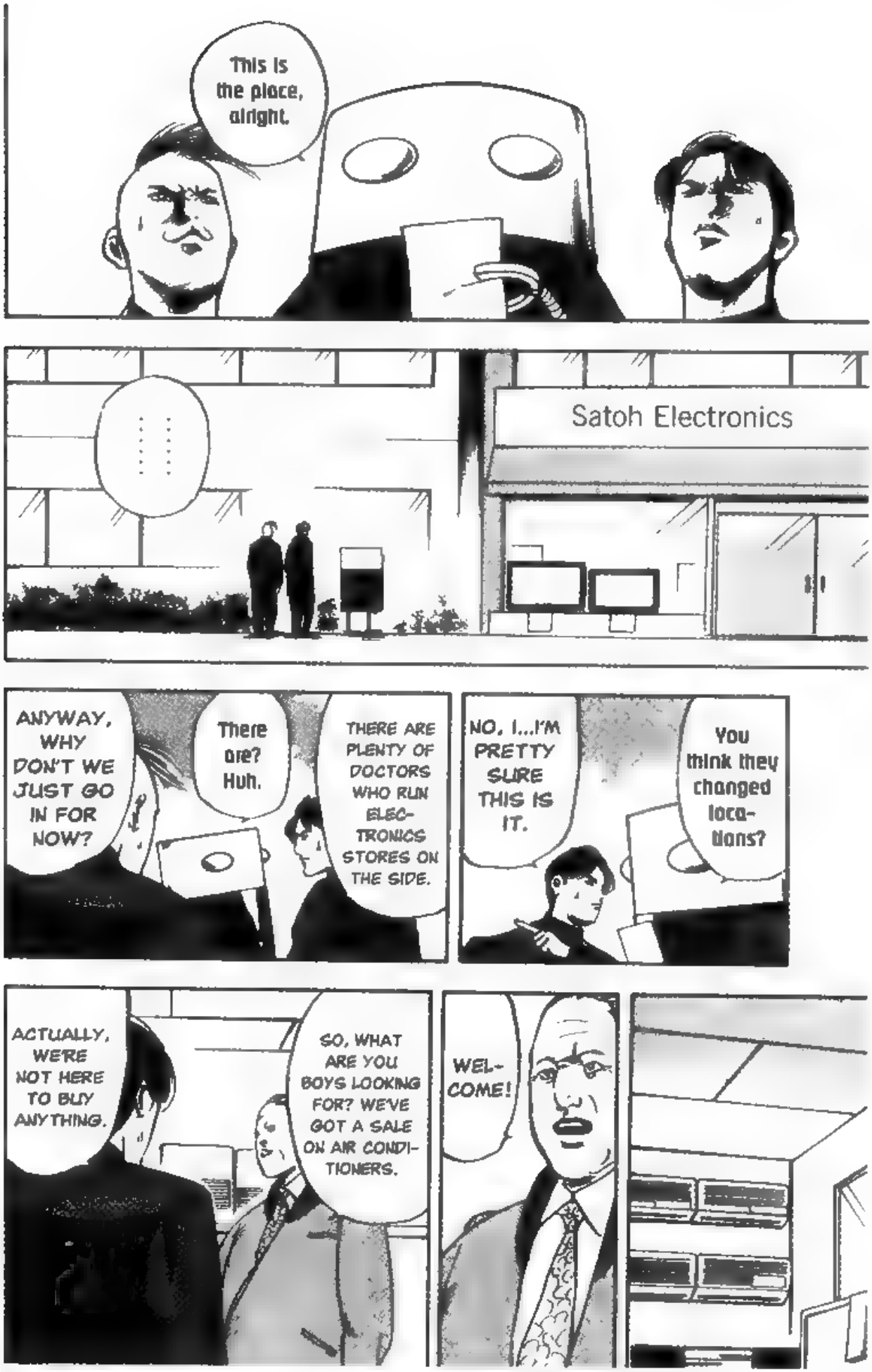
OK, PLEASE TURN AROUND SO YOUR BACK IS FACING ME.

I'M READY, DOCTOR.
ENOUGH! TIME TO PULL MYSELF TOGETHER AND MOVE ON TO THE NEXT PATIENT.
I CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIS FRONT AND HIS BACK!
I'M SORRY, BUT YOU'LL NEED TO REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHING.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M REFERRING TO!
ALL OF IT, HUH?
WHAT?
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO IF A DEMON WALKS IN? OR A BEAR? AS LONG AS IT'S ON THE ORDER OF, SAY, A GORILLA, I CAN DEAL WITH IT.
PHEW. OK, ALMOST DONE. BUT I CAN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN YET. I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT NEXT.

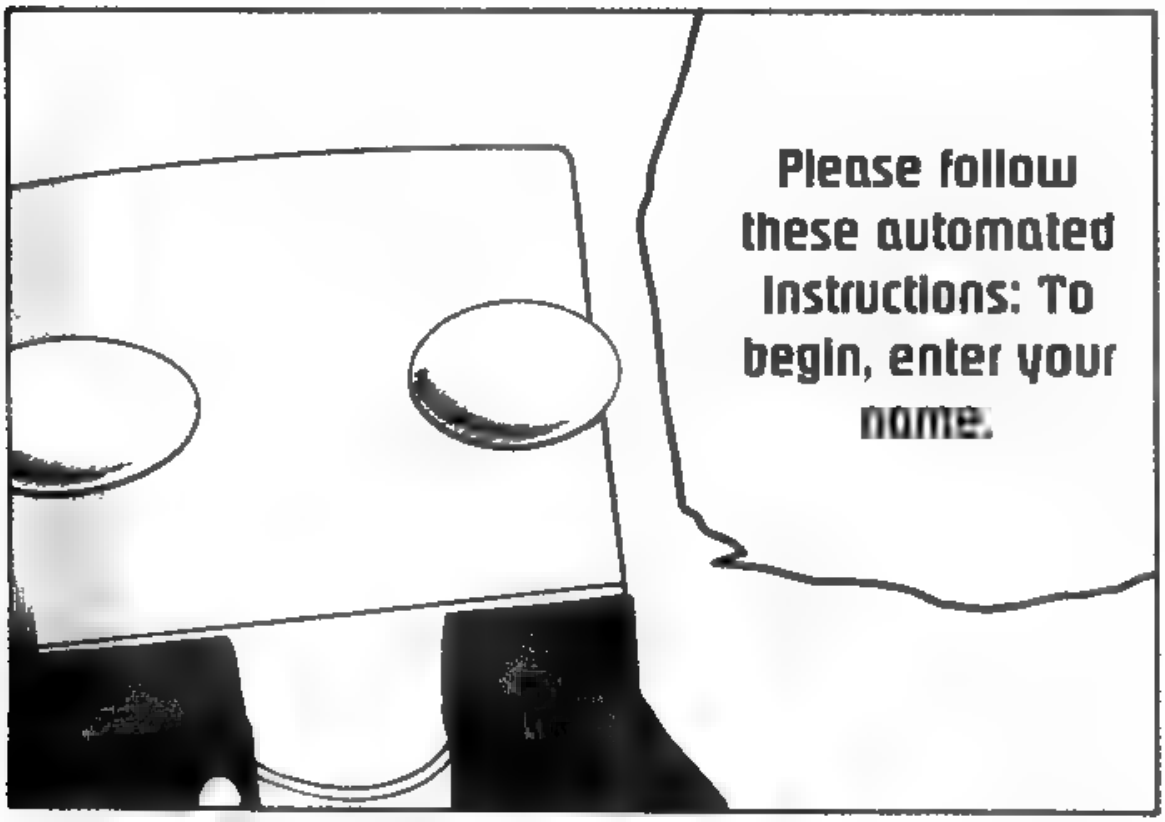
IT'S NOT SO GOOD, IS IT?

CHAPTER EIGHTY-EIGHT: **ELECTRIC WARRIOR**

WHAT'S THE MATTER, MECHAZAWA-KUN?
Hmm...
SEVERAL DAYS LATER
The doctor says I have to go to ANOTHER clinic and get a more comprehensive exam. Now I'm all anxious about it.
Well...I got the results back from my health exam.
I DON'T THINK YOU COULD HAVE CONTRACTED A SERIOUS ILLNESS OR...HOW SHOULD I PUT THIS? LET'S JUST SAY, I DOUBT THAT IT'S ANYTHING TO GET UPSET OVER.
For what?
POSI-TIVE?
It's really bugging the hell outta me. I wonder if I'm gonna test positive...
IF YOU LIKE. I DOUBT WE'LL BE MUCH HELP, THOUGH.
That doctor recommended a clinic I should go to. You guys wanna come with me?


This is the place, alright.
Satoh Electronics
ANYWAY, WHY DON'T WE JUST GO IN FOR NOW?
There are? Huh.
THERE ARE PLENTY OF DOCTORS WHO RUN ELEC-TRONICS STORES ON THE SIDE.
NO, I...I'M PRETTY SURE THIS IS IT.
You think they changed loca-tions?
ACTUALLY, WE'RE NOT HERE TO BUY ANYTHING.
SO, WHAT ARE YOU BOYS LOOKING FOR? WE'VE GOT A SALE ON AIR CONDI-TIONERS.
WEL-COME!

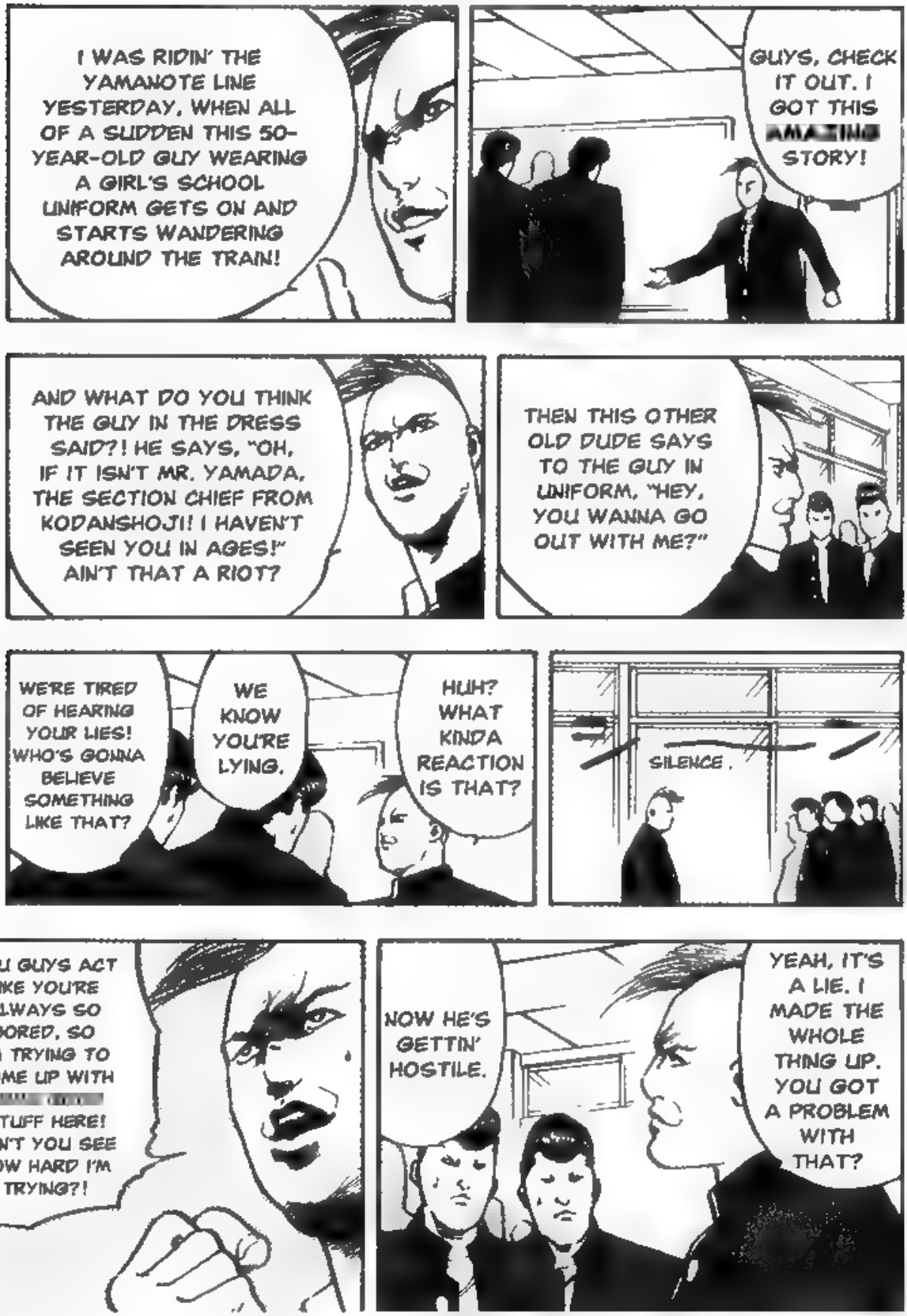
UM, THE THING IS...
LOOKS KINDA LIKE AN OLDER MODEL... WELL, I'LL JUST FIX IT UP AND IT'LL BE WORKING FINE.
AH, SO THAT'S HOW IT IS. I HEAR YA!
THE TRUTH IS, WE BROUGHT HIM HERE ON A DOCTOR'S REFERRAL.
Proof of INSURANCE, you mean. Right?
SO, DO YOU HAVE ANY PROOF OF WARRANTY?
OH, WE KNOW THAT VERY WELL.
KIDS THESE DAYS WILL THROW ANYTHING OUT ONCE IT GETS THE SLIGHTEST BIT DAMAGED. IT'S SAD TO SEE MACHINES GET TREATED SO COLDLY... THEY HAVE FEELINGS, TOO, YOU KNOW!
HE'S JUST LACKING IN HIS BEDSIDE MANNER. BUT THEY SAY THAT THOSE DOCTORS ARE OFTEN THE MOST SKILLED
Hey, is this guy really a doctor? He's starting to piss me off!
NO, HUH? THEN YOU MIGHT WANT TO CONTACT THE MAKER DIRECTLY.
I DON'T THINK SO...
Satoh Electro
AH. UM, I THINK WE'LL JUST WAIT OUTSIDE.
WELL, JUST LEAVE IT TO ME! I CAN AT LEAST DO SOME ROUTINE MAINTENANCE!



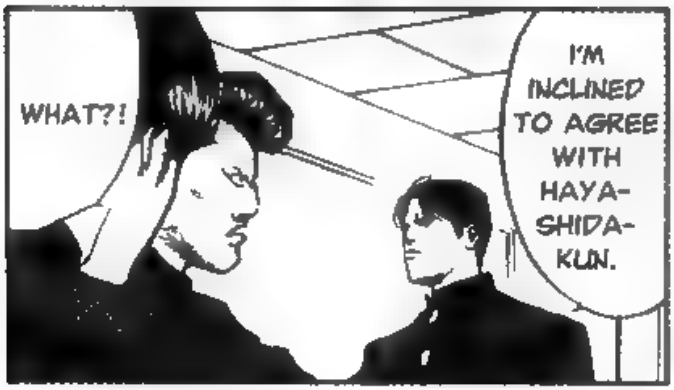
Next, select a password. Please refrain from using your date of birth or other personal information.
ARGH! HIS MEMORY'S BEEN WIPED!

MECHAZAWA—INITIALIZATION COMPLETE.

CHAPTER EIGHTY NINE: **HE IS SO UNUSUAL**


I WAS RIDIN' THE YAMANOTE LINE YESTERDAY, WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN THIS 50-YEAR-OLD GUY WEARING A GIRL'S SCHOOL UNIFORM GETS ON AND STARTS WANDERING AROUND THE TRAIN!
GUYS, CHECK IT OUT. I GOT THIS AMAZING STORY!
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK THE GUY IN THE DRESS SAID?! HE SAYS, "OH, IF IT ISN'T MR. YAMADA, THE SECTION CHIEF FROM KODANSHOJI! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN AGES!" AIN'T THAT A RIOT?
THEN THIS OTHER OLD DUDE SAYS TO THE GUY IN UNIFORM, "HEY, YOU WANNA GO OUT WITH ME?"
WE'RE TIRED OF HEARING YOUR LIES! WHO'S GONNA BELIEVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
WE KNOW YOU'RE LYING.
HUH? WHAT KINDA REACTION IS THAT?
SILENCE.
YOU GUYS ACT LIKE YOU'RE ALWAYS SO BORED, SO I'M TRYING TO COME UP WITH [illegible] STUFF HERE! CAN'T YOU SEE HOW HARD I'M TRYING?!
NOW HE'S GETTIN' HOSTILE.
YEAH, IT'S A LIE. I MADE THE WHOLE THING UP. YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

IF YOU'RE GONNA LIE, YOU COULD AT LEAST COME UP WITH SOMETHING BETTER.
YEAH, RIGHT. CUT THE CRAP ALREADY.
LOOK! I WEAR A HAIR-PIECE!
WELL, SOME-TIMES EVEN THE **TRUTH** CAN BE UNBELIE-VABLE!

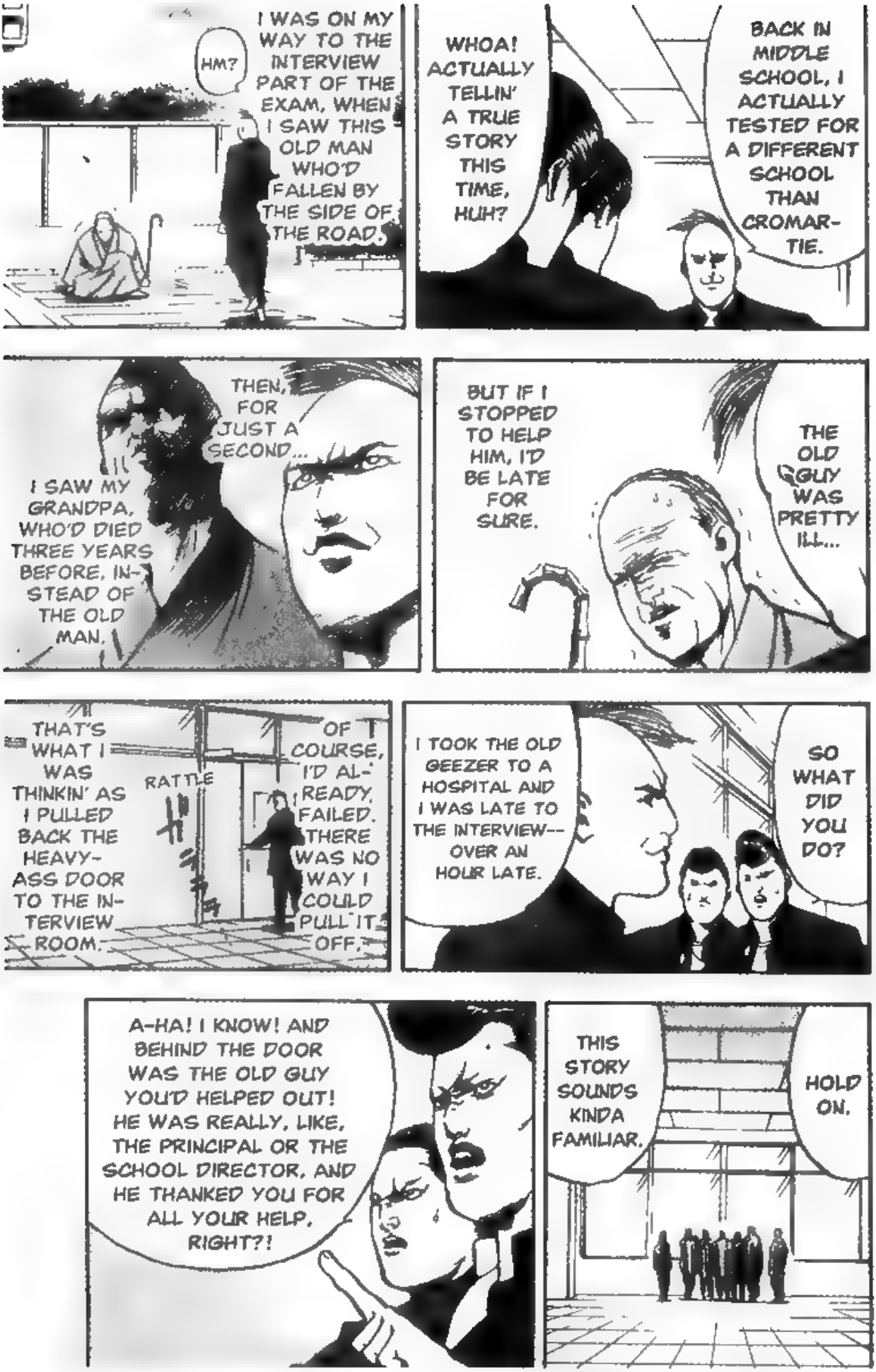

WHAT?!
I'M INCLINED TO AGREE WITH HAYA-SHIDA-KUN.

I'M TELLING YOU, TRUE STORIES JUST AIN'T INTERESTING! YOU GUYS DON'T KNOW JACK!

THAT BEING SAID, STORIES THAT LACK **EMBELLISHMENT** ARE RATHER UNINTERESTING. REAL-LIFE OCCURRENCES ARE SELDOM DRAMATIC OR SURPRISING.
MAKE NO MISTAKE, I HAVE NO LOVE FOR LYING. INDEED, I'D REMIND YOU OF THE OLD SAYING, "LIES ARE THE ORIGIN OF POLITICS."

THE FLOOR IS YOURS.
ALRIGHT, I'M GONNA TELL YOU A STORY THAT'S 100% TRUE!

IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO START FROM SQUARE ONE WITH THESE GUYS, KAMI-YAMA.
EVEN IF IT'S BORING, I STILL WANNA HEAR THE TRUTH! ADDING LIES TO IT WON'T MAKE IT MORE INTEREST-ING!

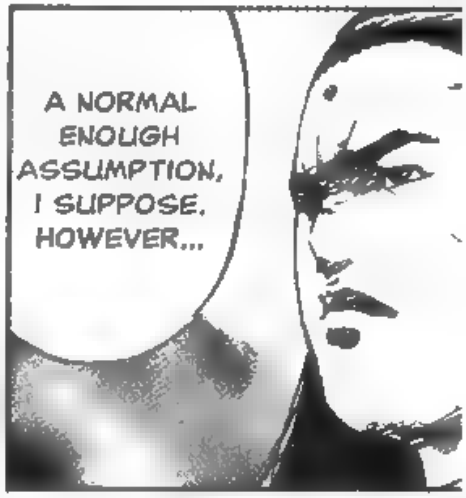

HM?
I WAS ON MY WAY TO THE INTERVIEW PART OF THE EXAM, WHEN I SAW THIS OLD MAN WHO'D FALLEN BY THE SIDE OF THE ROAD.
WHOA! ACTUALLY TELLIN' A TRUE STORY THIS TIME, HUH?
BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, I ACTUALLY TESTED FOR A DIFFERENT SCHOOL THAN CROMARTIE.
I SAW MY GRANDPA, WHO'D DIED THREE YEARS BEFORE, INSTEAD OF THE OLD MAN.
THEN, FOR JUST A SECOND...
BUT IF I STOPPED TO HELP HIM, I'D BE LATE FOR SURE.
THE OLD GUY WAS PRETTY ILL...
THAT'S WHAT I WAS THINKIN' AS I PULLED BACK THE HEAVY-ASS DOOR TO THE INTERVIEW ROOM.
RATTLE
OF COURSE, I'D ALREADY FAILED. THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD PULL IT OFF.
I TOOK THE OLD GEEZER TO A HOSPITAL AND I WAS LATE TO THE INTERVIEW-- OVER AN HOUR LATE.
SO WHAT DID YOU DO?
A-HA! I KNOW! AND BEHIND THE DOOR WAS THE OLD GUY YOU'D HELPED OUT! HE WAS REALLY, LIKE, THE PRINCIPAL OR THE SCHOOL DIRECTOR, AND HE THANKED YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP, RIGHT?!
THIS STORY SOUNDS KINDA FAMILIAR.
HOLD ON.

BASICALLY, I WENT IN THERE AND TOLD THE INTERVIEWER, "I'M LATE 'CUZ I STOPPED TO HELP SOME OLD GUY." AND HE GOES, "WELL, YOU'RE A FINE YOUNG MAN, BUT LATE IS LATE." SO I DIDN'T GET INTO THAT SCHOOL.
HUH?!
OF COURSE NOT! NOW YOU GUYS ARE JUST MAKIN' UP WHAT YOU WANNA HEAR.
SO THERE YOU HAVE IT. IF THE OLD MAN REALLY HAD BEEN THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, IT PROBABLY WOULD HAVE MADE FOR AN INTERESTING STORY, BUT IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THE TRUTH. THINGS JUST DON'T WORK OUT THAT WAY IN REAL LIFE.
And principals don't wear kimonos!
YEAH, BUT THAT'S REALITY.
MAN... THAT'S FRIGGIN' TERRIBLE!
ON MY FIRST DAY, IN ATTEN-DANCE AT A PRIVATE SCHOOL I HAD JUST TRANS-FERRED TO.
IT WAS TWO YEARS AGO...
WHERE THE HECK DID YOU COME FROM?!
VERY WELL! I WILL SHARE A BORING-BUT-TRUE STORY OF MY OWN.
CLATTER
BWAP
AH!
WHAM
RMPH!

WHAT?!
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
HM?
AND WHAT IF I AM?
HMPH! JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? I DON'T RECOGNIZE YOUR FACE. ARE YOU A TRANSFER STUDENT?!
WE RAN INTO **EACH OTHER**. A LESSON IN MANNERS WOULD DO YOU WELL, WOMAN.
WHAT AN INSOLENT WOMAN! PERHAPS UP UNTIL NOW, SHE HAD NEVER ENCOUNTERED A DECENT MAN.
I WOULDN'T WANT TO STUDY IN THE SAME CLASSROOM AS A BIG **LOUT** LIKE YOU!
I KINDA FEEL LIKE I'VE HEARD THIS ONE, TOO.
.....
HM?

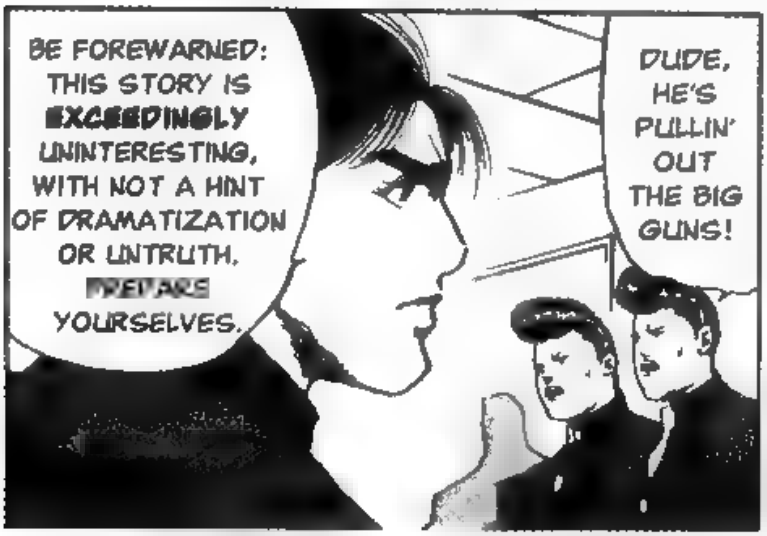
AFTER THAT, IT TURNS OUT THE GIRL'S IN THE SAME CLASS AS YOU, AND SHE SITS RIGHT NEXT TO YOU! SHE SHARES HER TEXTBOOK WITH YOU, AND WHEN YOU GIVE HER HANDKERCHIEF BACK, EVERYONE STARTS HOOTIN' AND HOLLERIN'. FROM THEN ON, THE TWO OF YOUSE ARE FIGHTIN' LIKE OLD FRIENDS, AND YOU START GROWIN' CLOSER TO EACH OTHER. IS THAT HOW IT GOES?
OH! I THINK I GOT IT!

THAT STORY WENT NO-WHERE!
DAMN, THAT'S BORING! IT SOUNDS LIKE A REAL STORY, ALRIGHT!
I HAD TRANS-FERRED TO AN ALL-BOYS' SCHOOL.

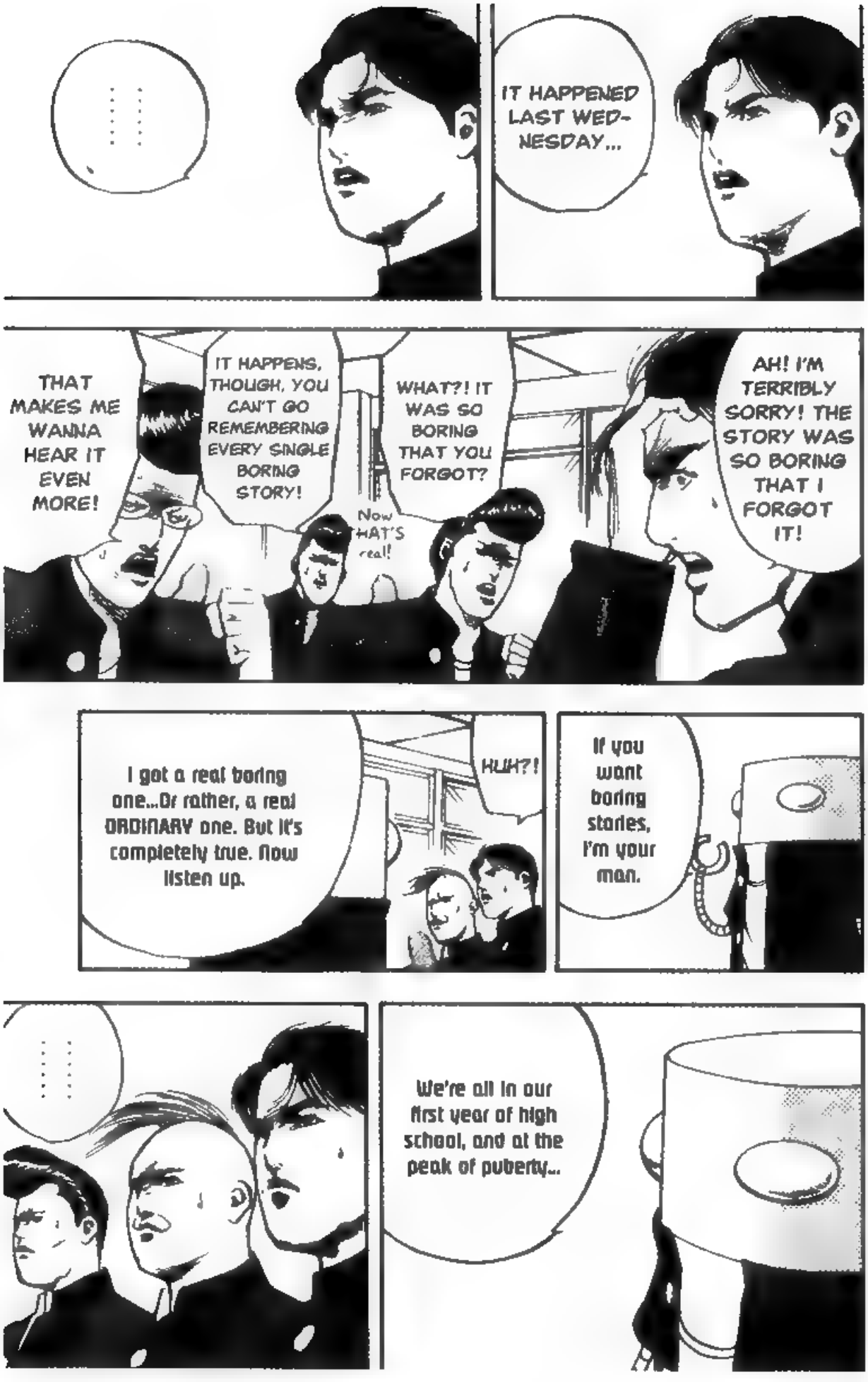

A NORMAL ENOUGH ASSUMPTION, I SUPPOSE. HOWEVER...

OH, MAN! THAT'S SO BORING! BUT IT'S TOTALLY REAL, TOO!
I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO TURN IT IN AT A POLICE BOX.

SO WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THE HANDKER-CHIEF?

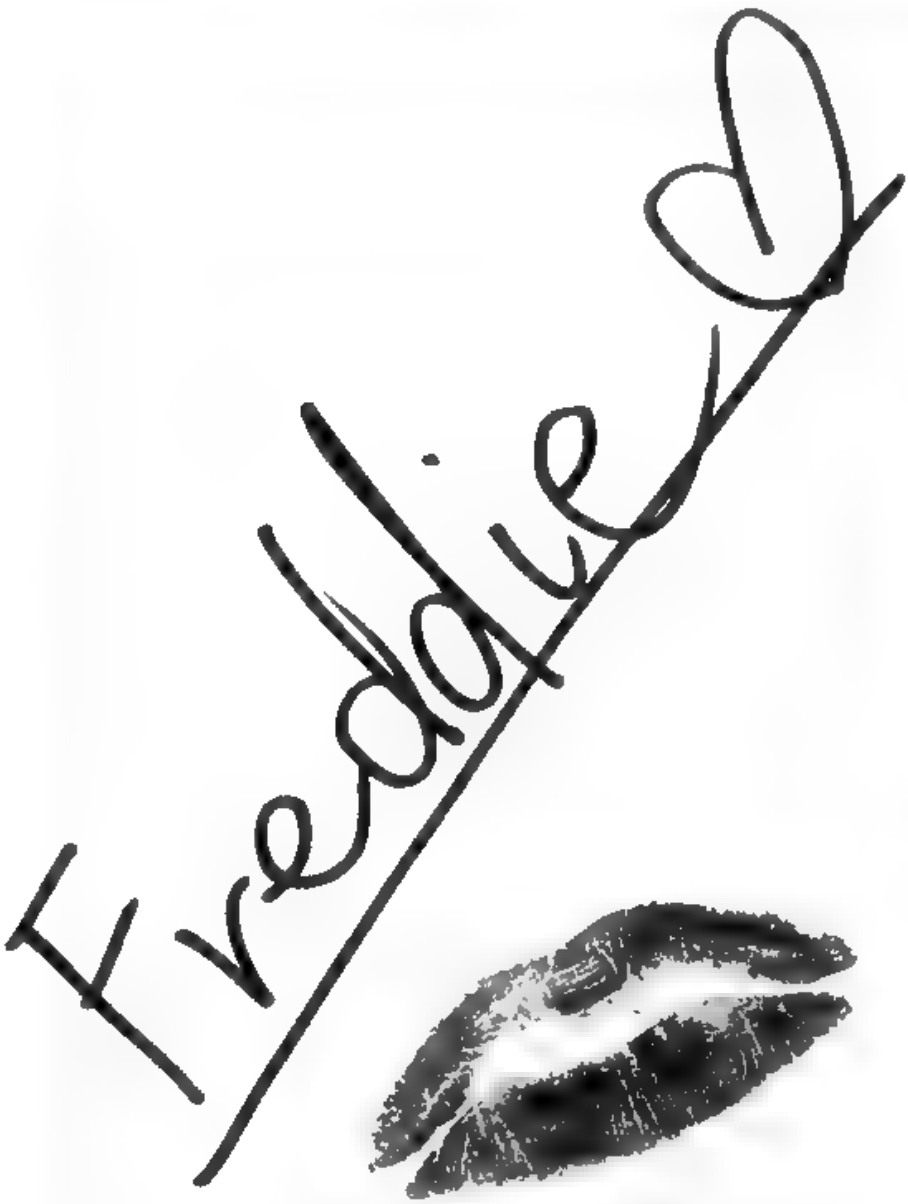

BE FOREWARNED: THIS STORY IS EXCEEDINGLY UNINTERESTING, WITH NOT A HINT OF DRAMATIZATION OR UNTRUTH. PREPARE YOURSELVES.
DUDE, HE'S PULLIN' OUT THE BIG GUNS!

I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE A PARTICU-LARLY BORING STORY OF MY OWN.


. . . . . .
IT HAPPENED LAST WED-NESDAY...
THAT MAKES ME WANNA HEAR IT EVEN MORE!
IT HAPPENS, THOUGH, YOU CAN'T GO REMEMBERING EVERY SINGLE BORING STORY!
Now THAT'S real!
WHAT?! IT WAS SO BORING THAT YOU FORGOT?
AH! I'M TERRIBLY SORRY! THE STORY WAS SO BORING THAT I FORGOT IT!
I got a real boring one...Or rather, a real ORDINARY one. But it's completely true. Now listen up.
HUH?!
If you want boring stories, I'm your man.
. . . . . .
We're all in our first year of high school, and at the peak of puberty...

So the other day, I figured I'd measure my height.
I've grown 2 centimeters.
See? Is that boring or what?
HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO EVEN RESPOND TO THAT?

MECHAZAWA—A TIME OF GROWTH.


Freddie

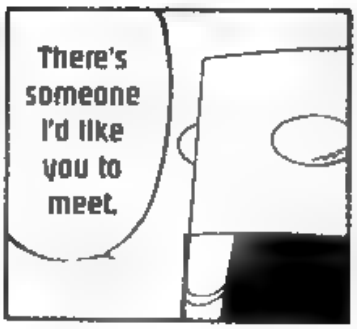
IS HE HARASSING ME, OR IS THIS JUST A LITTLE "SOMETHING EXTRA"? MORE TO THE POINT, HE CAN WRITE!

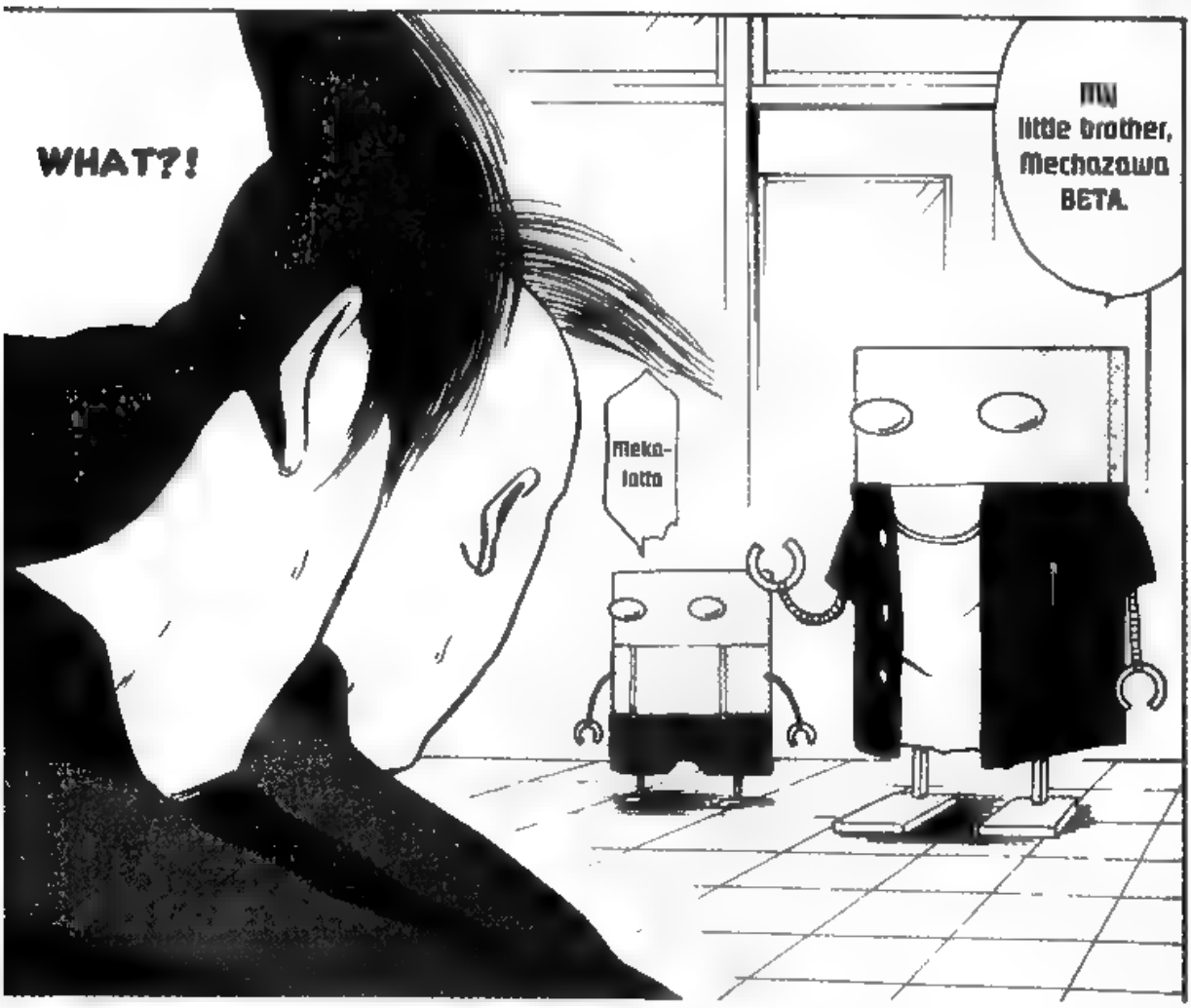
HAPPY NUDE YEAR!
MANY HAPPY
RERUNS!!

BY SALTY TARO

CHAPTER NINETY: **TWISTED BROTHERS**

BOY, HOKUTO SURE SUCKS AT BUNTING.
COME NOW, MAEDA-KUN. LET'S NOT FUSS OVER DETAILS.
LISTEN, FREDDIE. YOU CAN'T COVER THE OUTFIELD ON HORSE-
[redacted]!

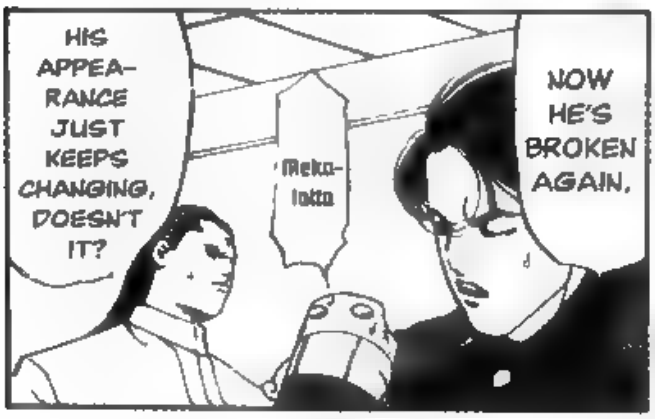




I HARDLY [illegible] THAT'S THE MOST SUR- [illegible] ABOUT THIS.
MAN, YOU CAN'T JUST GO BRINGIN' HIM TO SCHOOL WITH YOU!
Y-YOUR LITTLE [illegible]
Any of you wanna try goin' one-on-one with him? Ha ha! As if!
I UNDER-STAND... I THINK.
I tell ya, this is kid is tough! I guess that [illegible] runs in the family.
He may be little, but he's one hell of a fighter.
AAAH!
WHA-?!

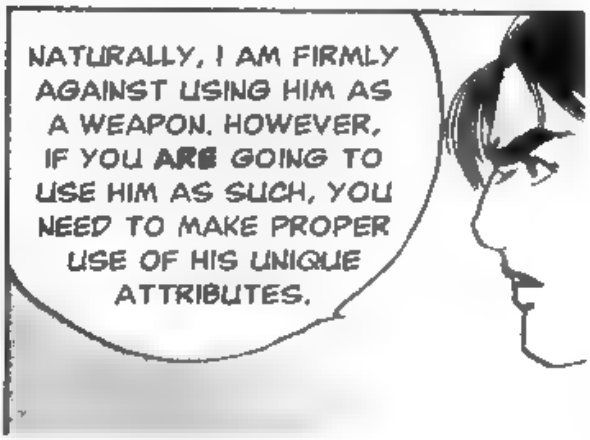
THOSE FOLKS AT SATOH ELECTRONICS SURE KNOW THEIR STUFF!
Meka-latta
WHOA! HE'S AS GOOD AS NEW!
A FEW DAYS LATER
MECHA-ZAWA'S LITTLE BROTHER IS FINALLY FIXED!
I FAIL TO SEE A PROBLEM. CELL PHONES, FOR EXAMPLE, BECOME SMALLER WITH EACH SUCCESSIVE GENERATION.
Meka-latta
ISN'T HE A LITTLE SMALLER THAN BEFORE?
STILL...
HEY, I JUST THOUGHT OF SOMETHIN'. WITH THIS LITTLE GUY ON OUR SIDE, THERE AIN'T NO ONE WHO COULD BEAT US IN A FIGHT!
HE RECEIVED SUCH A SHOCK FROM WHAT HAPPENED LAST TIME THAT HE'S BEEN LAID UP IN BED. PERHAPS WE SHOULD BE MORE WORRIED ABOUT HIM...
INCIDEN-TALLY, WHERE IS THE OLDER MECHA-ZAWA?
LEMME SEE HIM FOR A SEC.
BUT HOW ON EARTH ARE WE SUPPOSED TO USE HIM IN A FIGHT?
I'VE OPENED MY EYES TO THIS GUY'S TRUE POTENTIAL! C'MON, GIVE HIM A TRY!
He breaks pretty easily for an electrical appliance.
YOU THINK SO? THAT'S WHAT MECHA-ZAWA-KUN SAID, BUT...

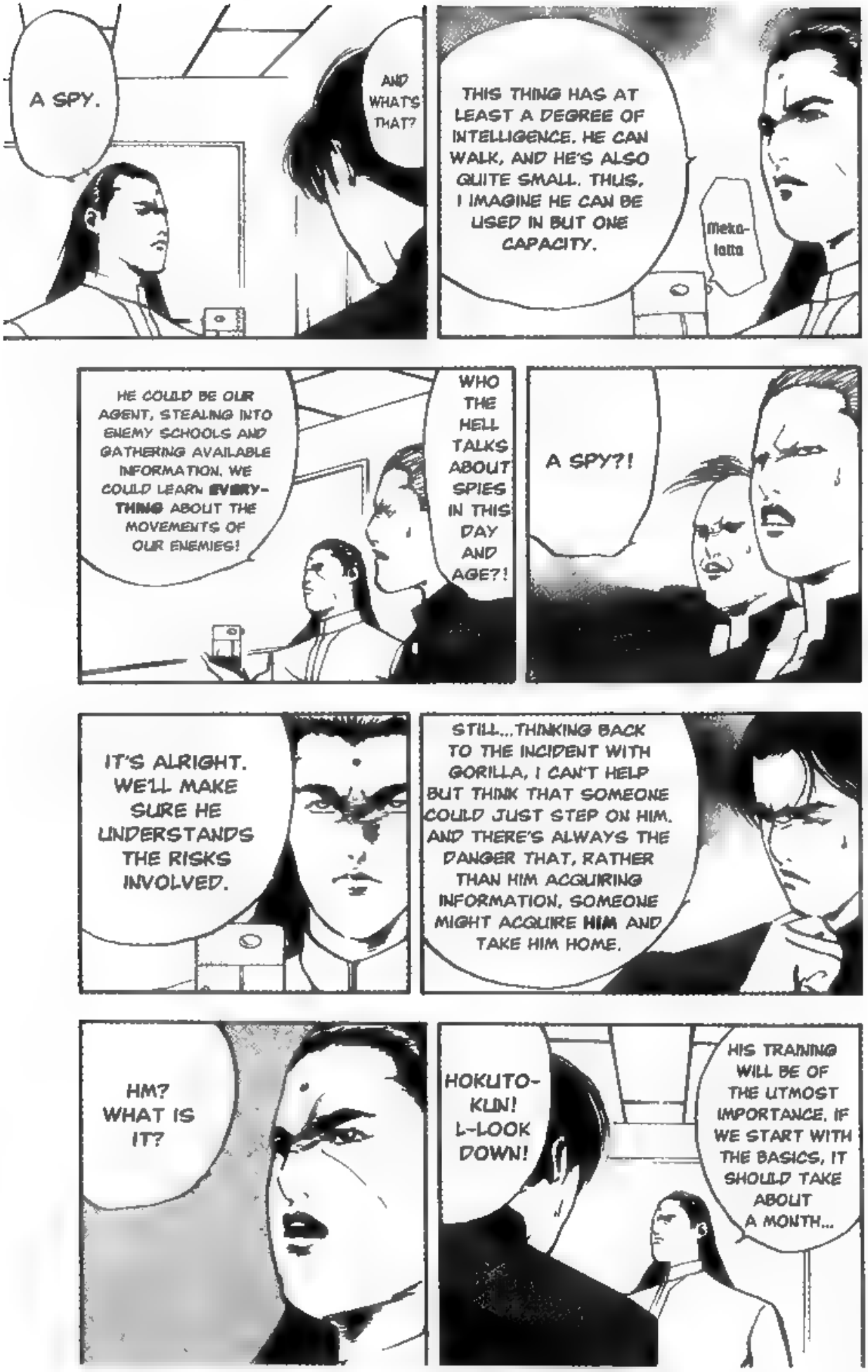
WAUGH!
CRACK
BWSH


HIS APPEA-RANCE JUST KEEPS CHANGING, DOESN'T IT?
Meka-lotta
NOW HE'S BROKEN AGAIN.

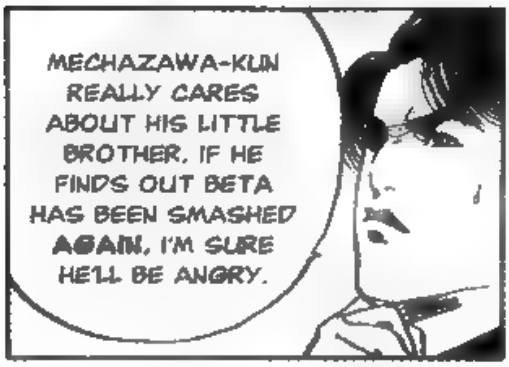
IF YOU WANT TO THROW SOMETHING, WHY NOT JUST USE A ROCK OR A BALL?!
THAT'LL WIN YOU A FIGHT, RIGHT?

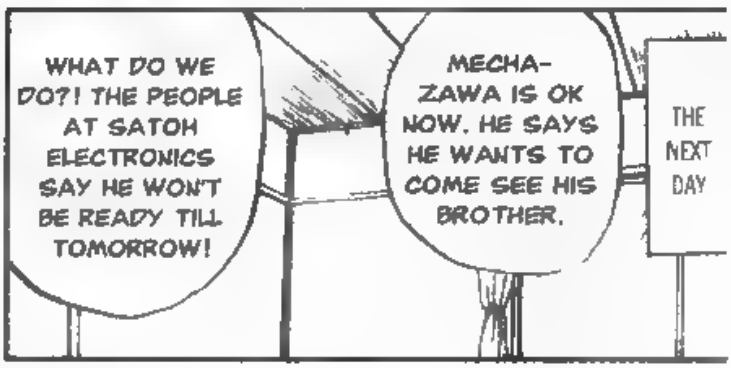
HOKUTO-KUN...
EXACTLY. USE YOUR HEADS, YOU BAS-TARDS.


NATURALLY, I AM FIRMLY AGAINST USING HIM AS A WEAPON. HOWEVER, IF YOU **ARE** GOING TO USE HIM AS SUCH, YOU NEED TO MAKE PROPER USE OF HIS UNIQUE ATTRIBUTES.

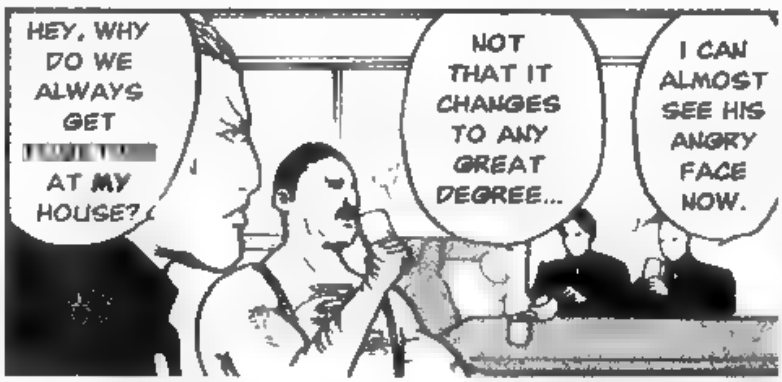

A SPY.
AND WHAT'S THAT?
THIS THING HAS AT LEAST A DEGREE OF INTELLIGENCE. HE CAN WALK, AND HE'S ALSO QUITE SMALL. THUS, I IMAGINE HE CAN BE USED IN BUT ONE CAPACITY.
Meka-lotta
HE COULD BE OUR AGENT, STEALING INTO ENEMY SCHOOLS AND GATHERING AVAILABLE INFORMATION. WE COULD LEARN **EVERY-THING** ABOUT THE MOVEMENTS OF OUR ENEMIES!
WHO THE HELL TALKS ABOUT SPIES IN THIS DAY AND AGE?!
A SPY?!
IT'S ALRIGHT. WE'LL MAKE SURE HE UNDERSTANDS THE RISKS INVOLVED.
STILL...THINKING BACK TO THE INCIDENT WITH GORILLA, I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT SOMEONE COULD JUST STEP ON HIM. AND THERE'S ALWAYS THE DANGER THAT, RATHER THAN HIM ACQUIRING INFORMATION, SOMEONE MIGHT ACQUIRE **HIM** AND TAKE HIM HOME.
HM? WHAT IS IT?
HOKUTO-KUN! L-LOOK DOWN!
HIS TRAINING WILL BE OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE. IF WE START WITH THE BASICS, IT SHOULD TAKE ABOUT A MONTH...

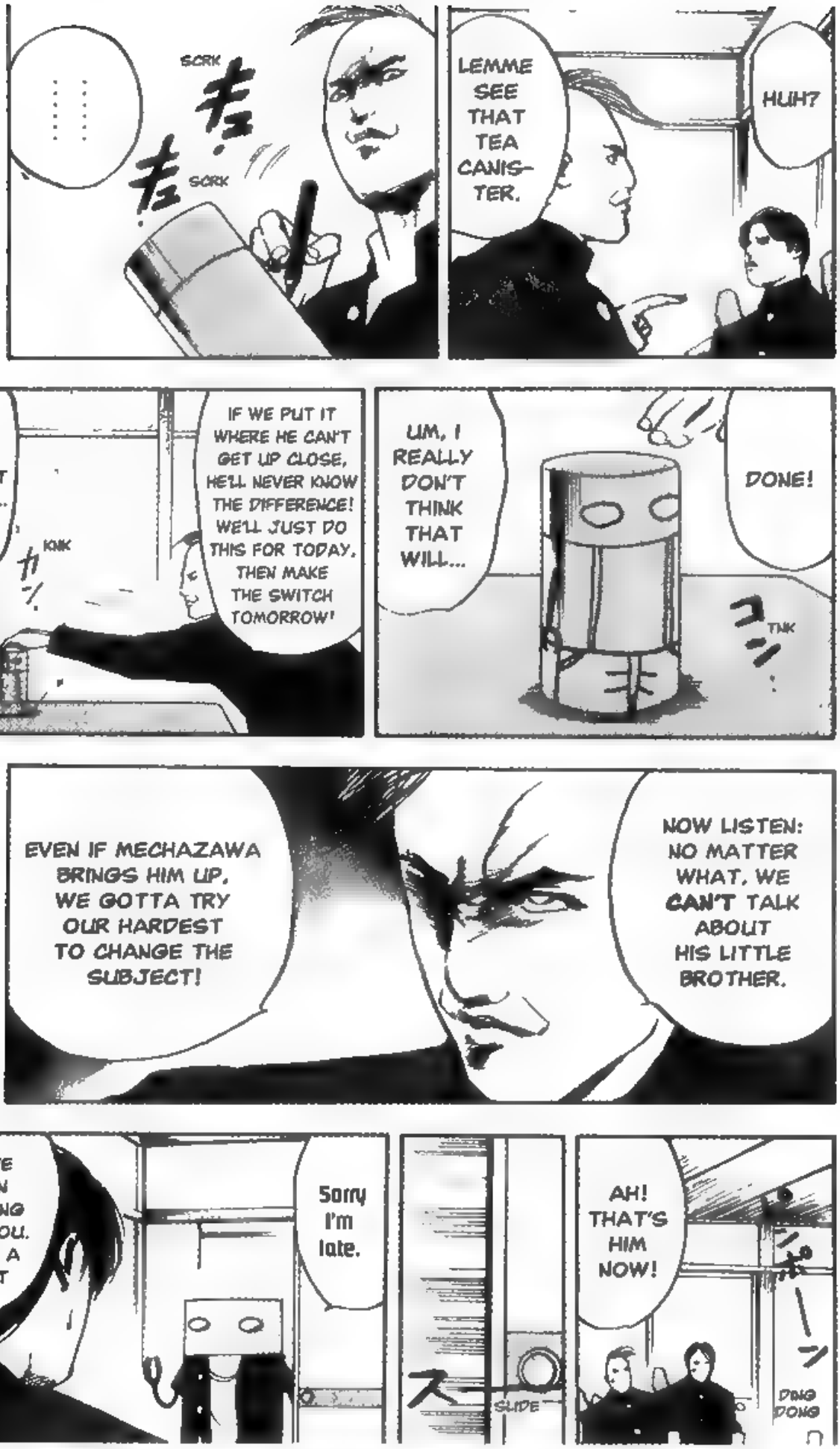
THIS WILL NEVER WORK!
OH...


MECHAZAWA-KUN REALLY CARES ABOUT HIS LITTLE BROTHER. IF HE FINDS OUT BETA HAS BEEN SMASHED AGAIN, I'M SURE HE'LL BE ANGRY.


WHAT DO WE DO?! THE PEOPLE AT SATOH ELECTRONICS SAY HE WON'T BE READY TILL TOMORROW!
MECHA-ZAWA IS OK NOW. HE SAYS HE WANTS TO COME SEE HIS BROTHER.
THE NEXT DAY

NOT TO WORRY. I GOT A GREAT IDEA.

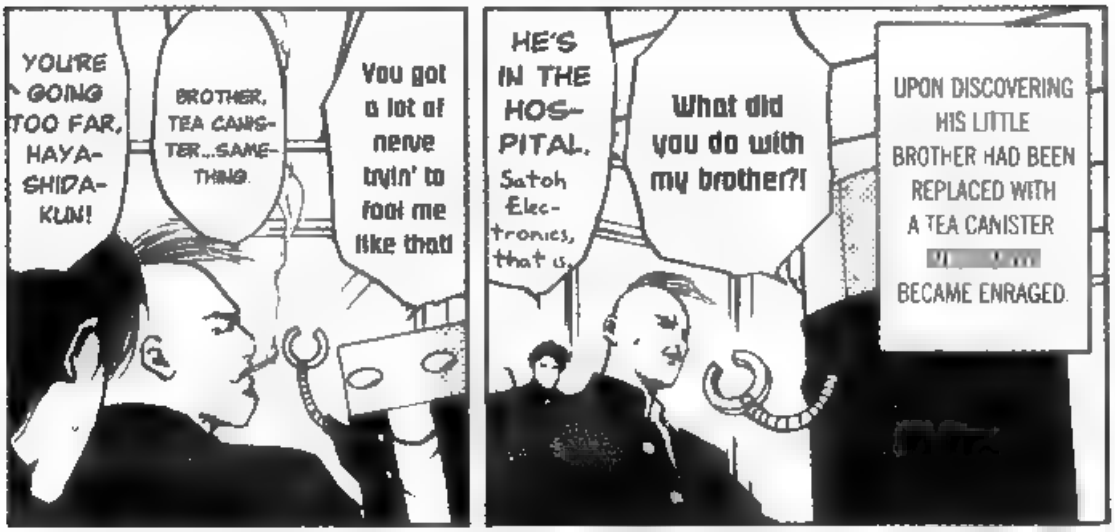

HEY, WHY DO WE ALWAYS GET [redacted] AT MY HOUSE?
NOT THAT IT CHANGES TO ANY GREAT DEGREE...
I CAN ALMOST SEE HIS ANGRY FACE NOW.


SCRK
SCRK
LEMME SEE THAT TEA CANIS-TER.
HUH?
I DON'T KNOW...
KNK
IF WE PUT IT WHERE HE CAN'T GET UP CLOSE, HE'LL NEVER KNOW THE DIFFERENCE! WE'LL JUST DO THIS FOR TODAY, THEN MAKE THE SWITCH TOMORROW!
UM, I REALLY DON'T THINK THAT WILL...
DONE!
TNK
EVEN IF MECHAZAWA BRINGS HIM UP, WE GOTTA TRY OUR HARDEST TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT!
NOW LISTEN: NO MATTER WHAT, WE CAN'T TALK ABOUT HIS LITTLE BROTHER.
WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. HAVE A SEAT
Sorry I'm late.
SLIDE
AH! THAT'S HIM NOW!
DING DONG

OH, HE'S FINE! HE'S SITTING RIGHT HERE, PERFECTLY ALRIGHT. ANYWAY, YOU SHOULD JUST KICK BACK AND MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.
Say, where's my little brother, Beta?
Yeah, sorry about that. I didn't mean to worry you...
WE'RE JUST GLAD THAT YOU'RE FEELING BETTER.
STOP, YOU'RE GONNA MAKE ME BLUSH. NOW I **HAVE** TO TRY AN' ACT CONSI-DERATE!
You're a good guy, Hayashida. You look kinda rough, but you're real considerate.
ARGH!
. . . . . .
HERE, LET ME MAKE YOU SOME TEA.

THE "TEA CANISTER" THEORY, CONFIRMED.

CHAPTER NINETY-ONE: **TOYS IN THE HOUSE OF MAEDA**


YOU'RE GOING TOO FAR, HAYASHIDA-KUN!
BROTHER, TEA CANISTER...SAME-THING.
You got a lot of nerve tryin' to fool me like that!
HE'S IN THE HOSPITAL. Satoh Electronics, that is.
What did you do with my brother?!
UPON DISCOVERING HIS LITTLE BROTHER HAD BEEN REPLACED WITH A TEA CANISTER [redacted] BECAME ENRAGED.

THE NEXT DAY
IF MY MOTHER FINDS HIM THERE, SHE'LL BE PISSED.
K-TMP
K-TMP
LET'S JUST STICK HIM IN THE [redacted] FOR NOW.
YES. HE'S SO COMPACT, YOU CAN JUST CARRY HIM AROUND.
THIS GUY'S EASIER TO HANDLE THAN HIS BROTHER.
THEY FIXED UP MECHAZAWA BETA JUST FINE.
YOU GUYS ALL SEEM NORMAL ENOUGH, BUT WHAT THE HECK IS WITH THESE MECHAZAWAS? DON'T YOU THINK THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THEM?
WHAT IS IT?
HEY, YOU GOT A SECOND?
I THINK THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME TO TALK ABOUT IT! I MEAN, NOW WE'VE EVEN GOT THIS [redacted] SHOWING UP! WE GOTTA SETTLE THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL!
UM, IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO BE ASKING THAT...
It doesn't even matter.
. . . . . .

WHY WON'T ANY OF YOU COME OUT AND SAY IT?!
WHO "MADE" THEM"? WHAT'S WITH YOU, MAN?
WHERE DO THEY LIVE? AND DO THEY HAVE PARENTS? OR RATHER, WHO MADE THEM?! YOU MUST HAVE ALL KINDS OF QUESTIONS, RIGHT?!
WHY? WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?
DON'T SAY ANY MORE!
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THOSE GUYS ARE ROBO--
OK. I WON'T SAY IT AGAIN.
BY SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT, ALL YOU'RE DOING IS BEING MEAN TO MECHAZAWA. I MEAN, WE'RE ALL BADASSES, BUT WE DON'T BULLY PEOPLE. THAT'S WHERE WE DRAW THE LINE.
HOWEVER, THE BACKGROUND OF THE MECHAZAWAS DOES CONCERN ME. IT MAKES ME WONDER IF THEY [redacted] OBJECTIVE IN COMING TO CROMARTIE.
NAH, I DON'T WANNA HEAR THAT EITHER
BUT LET ME TELL YOU MY NAME INSTE...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? STOP COMPARING EVERYTHING TO CELL PHONES, WILL YA?!
STILL, CELL PHONES BECOME SMALLER AS THE TECHNOLOGY EVOLVES. THIS THING MIGHT HAVE SOME INCREDIBLE ABILITIES.
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS! A LITTLE TOY LIKE THIS COULDN'T HAVE SOME SECRET REASON FOR COMING HERE! YOU'RE LETTIN' YOUR IMAGINATION RUN WILD.
AUGH!
HE...HE'S RINGING!
RRRING
YEAH, RIGHT! THAT'S JUST CREEPY, MAN!
SOMEONE SHOULD ANSWER HIM!
RRRING
MORE TO THE POINT, WHO'S FRICKIN' CALLING HIM?
RRRING
THIS GUY REALLY IS A CELL PHONE?

KAMI-YAMA!
WAUGH!
CHK
HELLO?
NO PROBLEM. OH, IS THAT RIGHT? I SEE. THANK YOU.
OH. YES, THANK YOU.
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST HANG UP?!
WRONG NUMBER.
WHO WAS IT?
BEEP

AH! HE'S RINGIN' AGAIN!
RRRING
WELL, THERE WASN'T REALLY MUCH ELSE I COULD DO...
HEY, IF IT AIN'T YOUR CELL PHONE, HOW COULD YOU TELL IT WAS A WRONG NUMBER?!
HELLO?
BEEP
IT'S ALL YOURS, HAYA-SHIDA.
I'LL GET IT THIS TIME.
RRRING
IT WAS MAEDA. IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING BAD HAPPENED. HE SAID TO COME OVER TO HIS PLACE!
WHO WAS IT?
HUH?! OK, I'M ON MY WAY.
MAEDA'S HOUSE
AND WHO WAS HE TRYING TO CALL, ANYWAY?
THAT'S RATHER UNUSUAL FOR MAEDA TO ACTUALLY ASK PEOPLE TO COME OVER!

AAH! GONE!
HE'S GONE.
I WAS CLEANING OUT THE CLOSETS JUST NOW, WHEN I REA-LIZED...
DON'T TELL ME HE GOT TAKEN OUT WITH THE TRASH!
MAYBE HE WENT OUT FOR A WALK.
NOW THAT'S A MYSTERY. HE DISAPPEARED SO QUICK, TOO.
. . . . . .
WE SHOULD HAVE SOME TEA AND THINK THINGS OVER.
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT. LET'S JUST TAKE A DEEP BREATH.
LET'S JUST CALM DOWN, EVERYONE! GETTING ALL WORKED UP WILL ONLY MAKE THINGS WORSE.

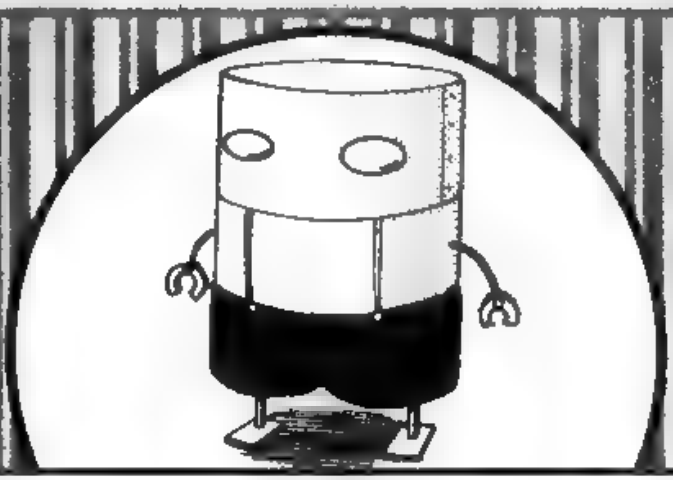
RIGHT. IN THE FRIDGE...
OH, WE'VE GOT SOME ICED TEA IN THAT FRIDGE OVER THERE.
TH-THAT'S HIM!
SORRY, BUT COULD WE TROUBLE YOU FOR SOME ICED TEA?
OH, HELLO MRS. MAEDA. THANKS FOR HAVING US OVER.

AND HIS HEAD'S THE FREEZER.

AKIRA NAKAO AND MICK

Like a comet shooting from the skies, the long-awaited No. 2 man has appeared at Destrade. His spectacular arrival showcased the most devastating technique in his arsenal--ventriloquist abilities on such an order that Yamaguchi, Destrade's head honcho, fell completely under their spell. I bet Nakao's not even a delinquent! This nefarious man (and puppet) snatched away Ishikawa's position with ease, and even managed to get Ishikawa to start learning ventriloquism himself! Nakao's weakness is that his foul-mouthed delinquent puppet has made such an impression that Nakao pales by comparison--to such an extent that even your humble author has forgotten what Nakao actually looks like! I always worry I'll accidentally draw some other character's face instead .but if I did, would you readers even notice?! It just goes to show how dangerous this guy is His "delayed effect" ventriloquism is superb (though it is rather difficult to illustrate). So anyway, which of these guys is the No 2?

MECHAZAWA BETA



Younger brother of high school student Shinichi Mechazawa. His word of choice is "Mekalatta " Beta is such a friendly little character that he makes you willing to overlook how out there this storyline has gotten Actually, having this fellow show up has only served to deepen the mystery surrounding the Mechazawa household. .Unlike his manly older brother, Mechazawa-Beta s quite innocent and charming (perhaps because he is still just a child). His shorts and suspenders are especially cute When it comes to fighting, however, he seems to take after his brother. That being said, Beta tends to meet with an unfortunate end every time he appears. In spite of this being a "no frickin' girls allowed" manga, one which fairly brims with MANLY sensibilities, it has come to my attention that this little guy has become rather popular with the women. But what the heck kind of name is "Beta"? Especially when his older brother is just plain Shinichi!

AN INTRODUCTION TO SOME NEW CHARACTERS

KIICHI FUJIMOTO

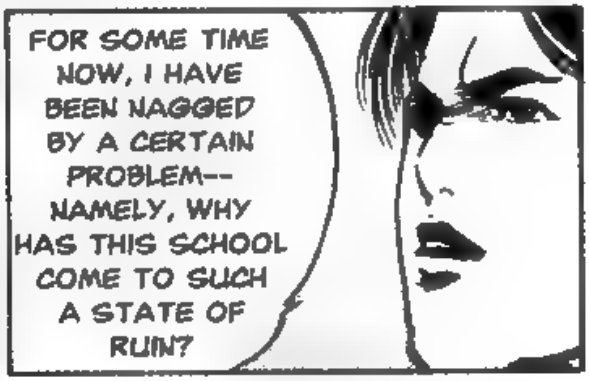
In the real world, he's a violent, raging hoodlum--but online, he's the nicest guy imaginable. He's the Internet Kingpin, and it's the disparity between his two personalities that gets the laughs. It's kind of like *The Matrix* in reverse. Incidentally, he's the leader of the 1st year students at Manuel High; he's also the only Manuel student to have yet made an appearance. His heartlessness and demonic strength have made him feared even within his own circle of friends. On the Internet, however, he is calm and collected--quick to observe proper "netiquette," and in constant fear of being flamed or having slanderous comments posted about him. Just seeing that big-bodied thug sitting daintily in front of a computer is enough to make you laugh, but the fact that he's so friendly and courteous when online is enough to bring tears to your eyes. It turns out that when Fujimoto first appeared in *Shonen Magazine*, readers who had no interest in the Internet didn't find him the least bit amusing...Incidentally, it wasn't mentioned this time around, but his online name is "11 p.m." What the hell is that supposed to mean?!

MAKIO TANAKA

Strictly speaking, this is not a "new" character. If you recall, Tanaka was the Cromartie 1st year who was always being bullied, but who got some help from Kamiyama in Chapter 5, "Run (Errands) Towards Tomorrow!" However, given that he turned right around and placed an order with Kamiyama along with the other delinquents, you could say that we've already seen a glimpse of his true personality. Online, Tanaka is the most malicious of Internet users, taking advantage of the anonymity it affords to harass others (perhaps as a release from his otherwise gloomy day-to-day life). There really are guys like this, aren't there? His online dispute with Fujimoto is absolutely hilarious...though some may wonder if the author isn't trying to cajole all those Internet users out there to conduct their discussions in a calm, objective manner. I wasn't thinking anything like that, honest!

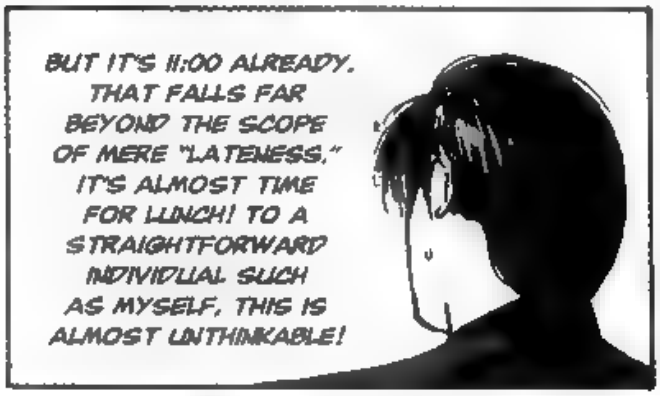
CHAPTER NINETY-TWO: **TIME AFTER TIME**

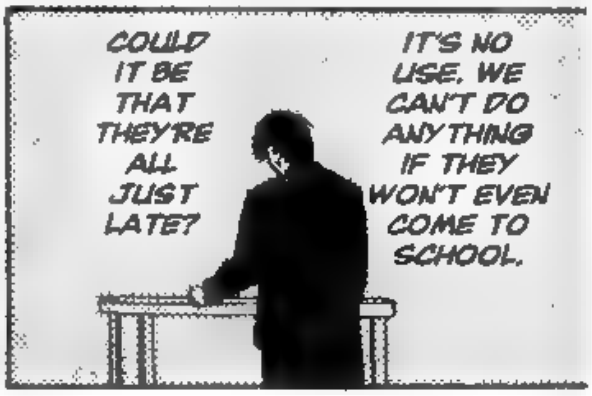
I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO YOU ALL TODAY, SO I WONDER IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND LISTENING.
GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE. I'M TAKASHI KAMIYAMA.



BUT THEN I REALIZED THAT THERE IS STILL TIME! IF WE ALL PITCH IN AND DO OUR BEST, WE CAN BRING ABOUT A RETURN TO A GOOD AND PROPER STUDENT LIFE!
I MUST ADMIT, I WAS EXTREMELY DISHEARTENED WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED HERE. EVENTUALLY, I GAVE IN TO DESPAIR...

NOBODY'S EVEN HERE!
DESERTED
Hayashida


BUT IT'S 11:00 ALREADY. THAT FALLS FAR BEYOND THE SCOPE OF MERE "LATENESS." IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR LUNCH! TO A STRAIGHTFORWARD INDIVIDUAL SUCH AS MYSELF, THIS IS ALMOST UNTHINKABLE!


COULD IT BE THAT THEY'RE ALL JUST LATE?
IT'S NO USE. WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING IF THEY WON'T EVEN COME TO SCHOOL.

THE NEXT DAY

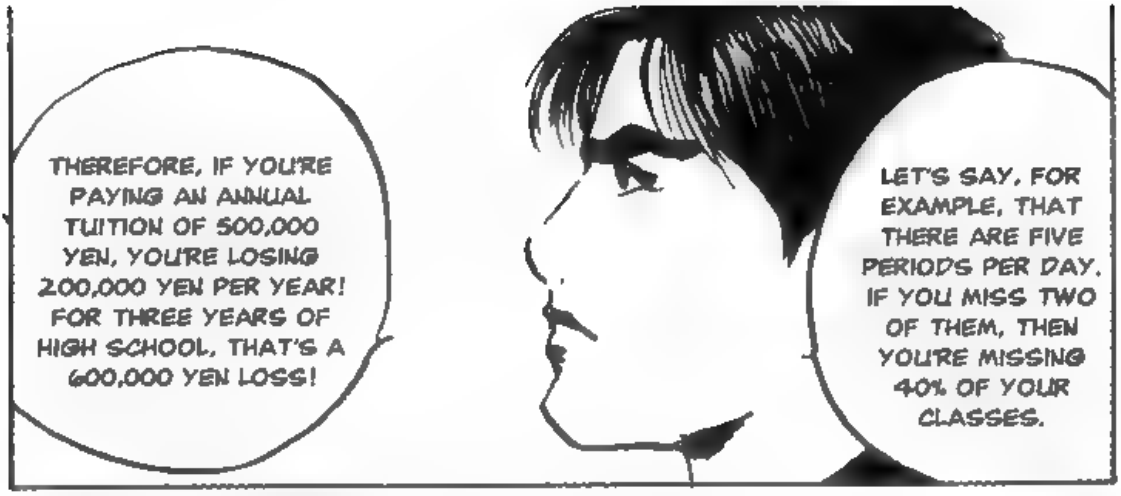
AT ANY RATE, THE FIRST THING I'LL HAVE TO DO IS TEACH THE OTHERS THAT TARDINESS IS NOT GOOD!

BUT HE'S NOT EVEN IN THIS CLASS. FOR THAT MATTER, HOW LONG DOES HE PLAN TO KEEP COMING TO THIS SCHOOL?!
AT LEAST FREDDIE'S HERE...

TODAY, I'D LIKE US ALL TO TAKE A MOMENT AND REFLECT ON WHAT IT MEANS TO BE "TARDY."

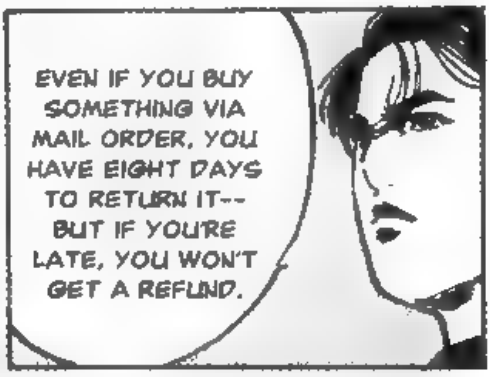
IF IT'S SOME BORING-ASS STORY, I'LL FRICKIN' KILL YA!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU WANT?!
I KNOW YOU'RE ALL BUSY, SO THANK YOU FOR COMING TO HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.

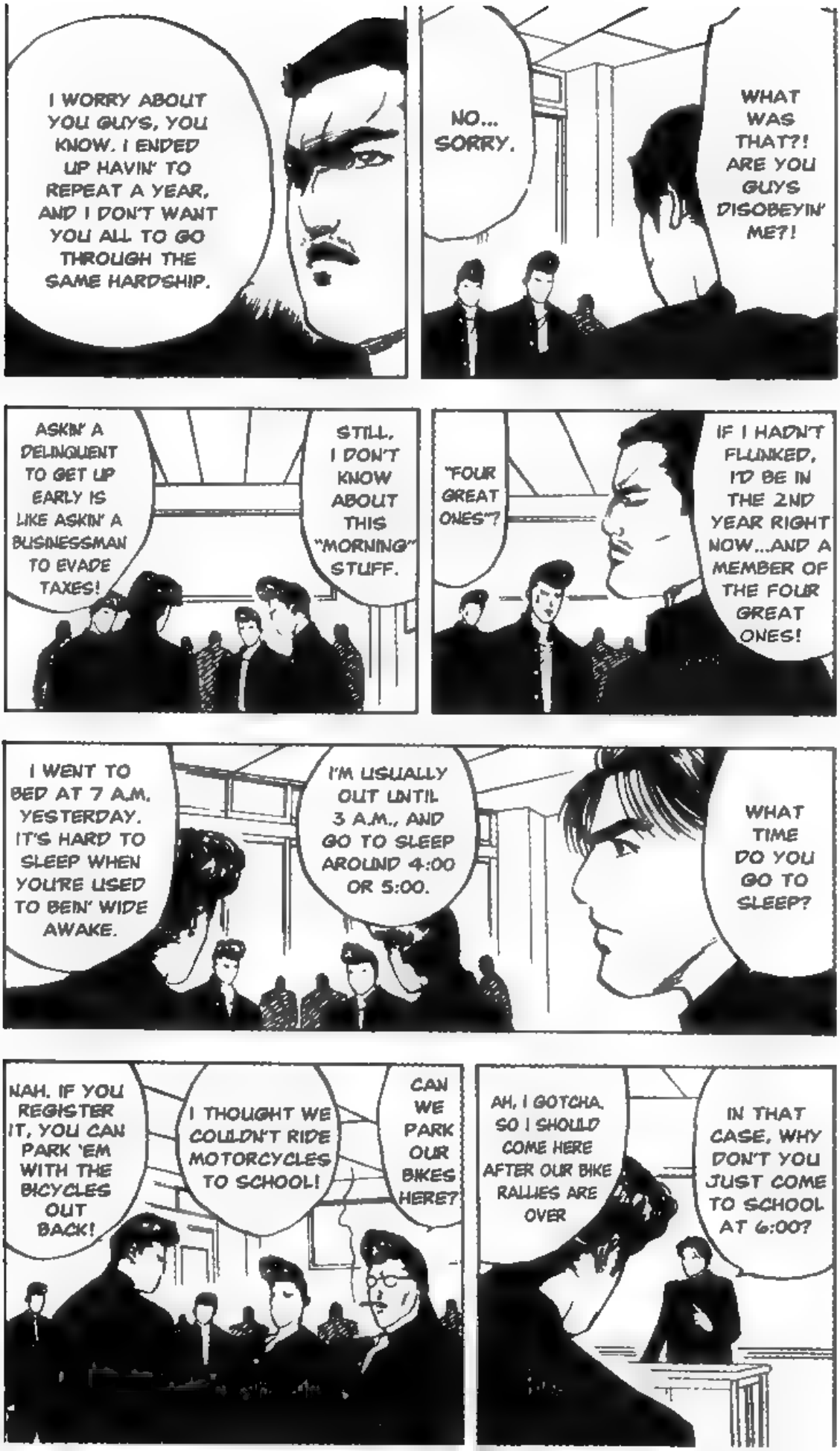
HUH?!
NO. LET HIM CONTINUE.
GOOD NOW GET THE HELL OUTTA HERE!
W-WELL, THAT ABOUT WRAPS IT UP FOR TODAY.
WHOA. EASY! THAT'S HIRAI-SAN!
WHAT'S WITH THAT SON OF A BITCH?! HE [redacted] SHUT UP RIGHT NOW!
Hirai-san (Called "-san" because he flunked a year and is older than the others.)
LISTEN, THERE'S AN OLD SAYING: "THE BEST STORYTELLERS ARE THE BEST LISTENERS." IT MEANS, IF YA DON'T LISTEN TO WHAT PEOPLE SAY, YOU'RE GONNA DIE A LOUSY DEATH!
SO IS [redacted] SOMETHING WRONG WITH BEING LATE TO SCHOOL?
I DON'T [redacted] WHO YOU ARE, BUT THANKS.
We've met before
I SEE... BUT DO WE REALLY NEED TO BE, UH, [redacted] OF HIM?
HE JUST BARELY HAD ENOUGH CREDITS TO PASS, AND THEN IN THE THIRD SEMESTER, HE CAME DOWN WITH THE MEASLES AND HAD TO REPEAT THE YEAR. HE'S ONE SCARY [redacted]


LET'S SAY, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THERE ARE FIVE PERIODS PER DAY. IF YOU MISS TWO OF THEM, THEN YOU'RE MISSING 40% OF YOUR CLASSES.
THEREFORE, IF YOU'RE PAYING AN ANNUAL TUITION OF 500,000 YEN, YOU'RE LOSING 200,000 YEN PER YEAR! FOR THREE YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL, THAT'S A 600,000 YEN LOSS!

*100,000 YEN = ABOUT $1,000 U.S.

IN ANY EVENT, HIRAI-SAN HAD TO REPEAT HIS 1ST YEAR, WHICH MEANS HE'D HAVE AN 800,000 YEN LOSS!
I-I'D LOSE THAT MUCH?
HEY! WHERE DOES HE GET OFF TALKING TO HIRAI-SAN THAT WAY?




I WORRY ABOUT YOU GUYS, YOU KNOW. I ENDED UP HAVIN' TO REPEAT A YEAR, AND I DON'T WANT YOU ALL TO GO THROUGH THE SAME HARDSHIP.
NO... SORRY.
WHAT WAS THAT?! ARE YOU GUYS DISOBEYIN' ME?!
ASKIN' A DELINQUENT TO GET UP EARLY IS LIKE ASKIN' A BUSINESSMAN TO EVADE TAXES!
STILL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS "MORNING" STUFF.
"FOUR GREAT ONES"?
IF I HADN'T FLUNKED, I'D BE IN THE 2ND YEAR RIGHT NOW...AND A MEMBER OF THE FOUR GREAT ONES!
I WENT TO BED AT 7 A.M. YESTERDAY. IT'S HARD TO SLEEP WHEN YOU'RE USED TO BEIN' WIDE AWAKE.
I'M USUALLY OUT UNTIL 3 A.M., AND GO TO SLEEP AROUND 4:00 OR 5:00.
WHAT TIME DO YOU GO TO SLEEP?
NAH. IF YOU REGISTER IT, YOU CAN PARK 'EM WITH THE BICYCLES OUT BACK!
I THOUGHT WE COULDN'T RIDE MOTORCYCLES TO SCHOOL!
CAN WE PARK OUR BIKES HERE?
AH, I GOTCHA. SO I SHOULD COME HERE AFTER OUR BIKE RALLIES ARE OVER
IN THAT CASE, WHY DON'T YOU JUST COME TO SCHOOL AT 6:00?

YEAH, WE COULD TOTALLY AMBUSH 'EM IF WE GET THERE EARLY!
PERFECT! WE'LL GO RAID THEIR SCHOOL BEFORE WE COME HERE!
THIS IS KINDA OFF-TOPIC, BUT LAST WEEK SOME 2ND YEARS FROM MANUEL HIGH JUMPED ME.
I NEVER WOULDA THOUGHT OF THAT...
HEY, THAT'S GOOD THINKING!
LOOK, WHY DON'T WE JUST HAVE OUR MEETIN' IN FRONT OF MANUEL TOMOR-ROW?
DUDE, IT'S RIGHT BETWEEN HERE AND WHERE WE HOLD OUR RALLIES! SO IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN AVOID IT.
UM, I THINK THAT RAIDING MANUEL HIGH WOULD MAKE YOU LATE FOR SCHOOL..
AND DON'T YOU DARE BE LATE!
YEAH!
THEN IT'S DECIDED! WE'LL ALL MEET IN FRONT OF MANUEL HIGH AT 10 P.M. TONIGHT!

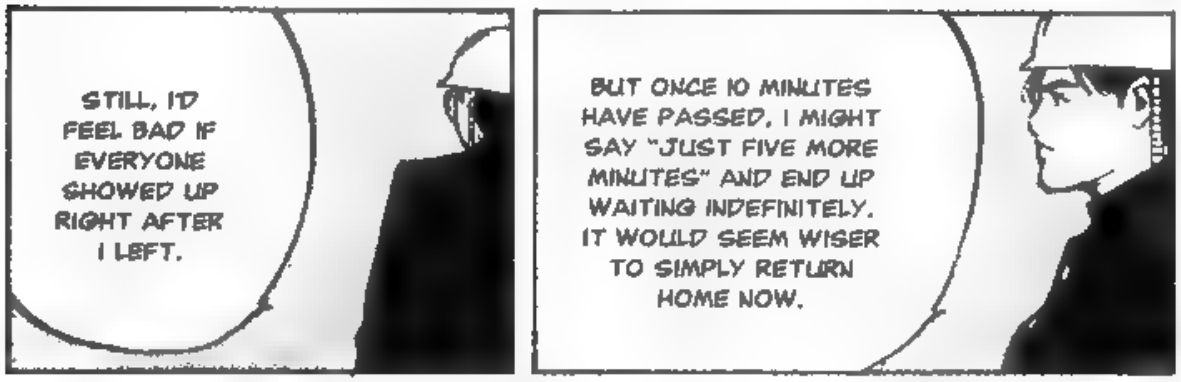
WH-WHAT'S THAT? ME, TOO?
AND MAKE SURE YOU ALL BRING WOODEN SWORDS. IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE, GO BUY ONE SOMETIME TODAY!
THEY'RE ALL LATE...
MANUEL HIGH SCHOOL

YOU ACTUALLY BOUGHT A WOODEN SWORD, DIDN'T YOU?

CHAPTER NINETY-THREE **LOVE LETTER**

IT SURE IS COLD...
MANUEL HIGH SCHOOL
KAMIYAMA WAS FORCED TO PARTICIPATE IN A RAID ON MANUEL HIGH BUT AS USUAL, EVERYONE ELSE IS LATE, LEAVING KAMIYAMA ALL ALONE

IF THAT'S THE CASE, DOES IT MEAN THAT THEY'RE SLEEPING NORMAL HOURS AND WILL ACTUALLY BE ON TIME FOR SCHOOL TOMORROW?! EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON ANYMORE. OH, WELL. I'LL WAIT 10 MORE MINUTES AND THEN HEAD HOME.
IT'S BEEN MORE THAN 30 MINUTES ALREADY, AND NO ONE'S ANSWERING THEIR CELL PHONES. COULD THEY ALL BE SLEEPING?

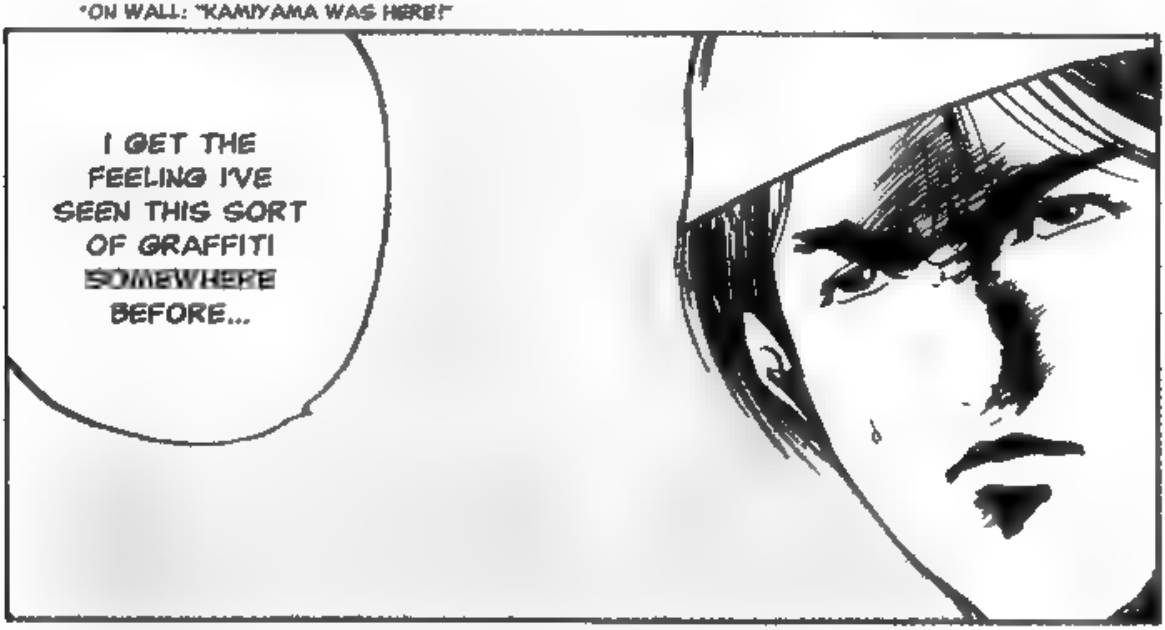

STILL, I'D FEEL BAD IF EVERYONE SHOWED UP RIGHT AFTER I LEFT.
BUT ONCE 10 MINUTES HAVE PASSED, I MIGHT SAY "JUST FIVE MORE MINUTES" AND END UP WAITING INDEFINITELY. IT WOULD SEEM WISER TO SIMPLY RETURN HOME NOW.

IF ONLY I KNEW IF THEY'RE COMING OR NOT! I'D ALREADY PREPARED MYSELF FOR THIS "RAID." BUT NOW...ARGH, IT'S SO VEXING!
MY HEART IS RACING!
BUT IF THEY COME WHILE I'M OFF RELIEVING MYSELF, THAT WOULD BE BAD, TOO.
OH, NO. NOW I HAVE TO GO TO THE BATHROOM.

I DON'T LOOK LIKE I'M STANDING HERE WAITING FOR A DATE, DO I?
OH, NO.
STILL, I CAN'T HAVE THEM ACCUSING ME OF NOT COMING WHEN I ACTUALLY DID.
I SHOULD GET HOME, AND QUICKLY.
OUTRAGEOUS! NOT ONLY DO I NOT HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, BUT IF MY HEART IS GOING TO RACE, I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT IT TO BE IN REFERENCE TO A GROUP OF BADASSES!
HMM. I'LL JUST MENTION THAT I REALLY WAS HERE AT 10 P.M.
I'LL LEAVE A LITTLE NOTE FOR THEM, TOO.
Greetings, I, Kamiyama, did in fact
I KNOW. I'LL LEAVE THIS HERE AS PROOF.

BUT NOW IT LOOKS EERILY LIKE A FAREWELL NOTE. AND IF IT'S BLOWN AWAY BY THE WIND, THEN ALL THIS WILL HAVE BEEN IN VAIN! WHAT SHOULD I DO?
ALRIGHT, I'LL JUST LEAVE IT RIGHT HERE.
SKRK
SKRK
SKRK
OF COURSE! I'LL WRITE IT DIRECTLY ON THE WALL.
WHAT'S MORE, THOSE FELLOWS CAN BE RATHER HOT-HEADED. THEY MIGHT NOT EVEN NOTICE IT.
STILL, IT'S A LITTLE SMALL...
DONE!
Greetings. I, Kamiyama, did in fact arrive here at 10:00 p.m. As no one else is coming, however, I am returning home.
WITH THAT IN MIND, I WILL CRAFT A NEW MESSAGE.
I SHOULD MAKE THE LETTERS [redacted] AND TRIM DOWN THE LENGTH.
THAT LOT IS SO TRULY UNINTELLIGENT THAT THEY MAY BE UNABLE, OR UNWILLING, TO READ SUCH A LONG MESSAGE.
THE SENTENCES ARE A LITTLE LONG, TOO.
Greetings. I, Kamiyama, did in fact arrive here at 10:00 p.m. As no one else is coming, however, I am returning home.

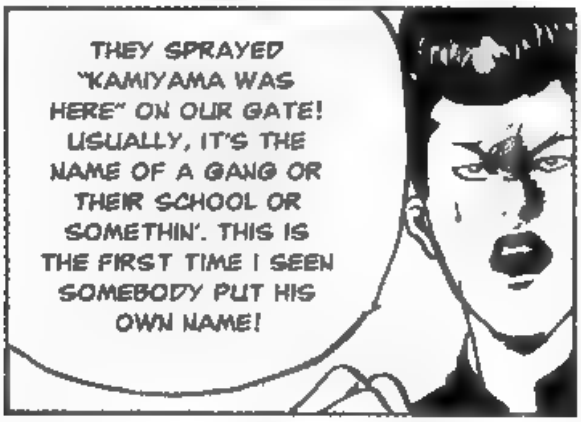
*ON WALL: "KAMIYAMA WAS HERE!"



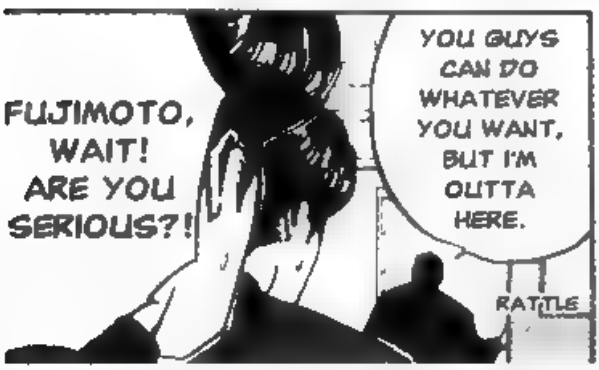
TURNS OUT YOU'RE THE BADDEST ONE OF THEM ALL.

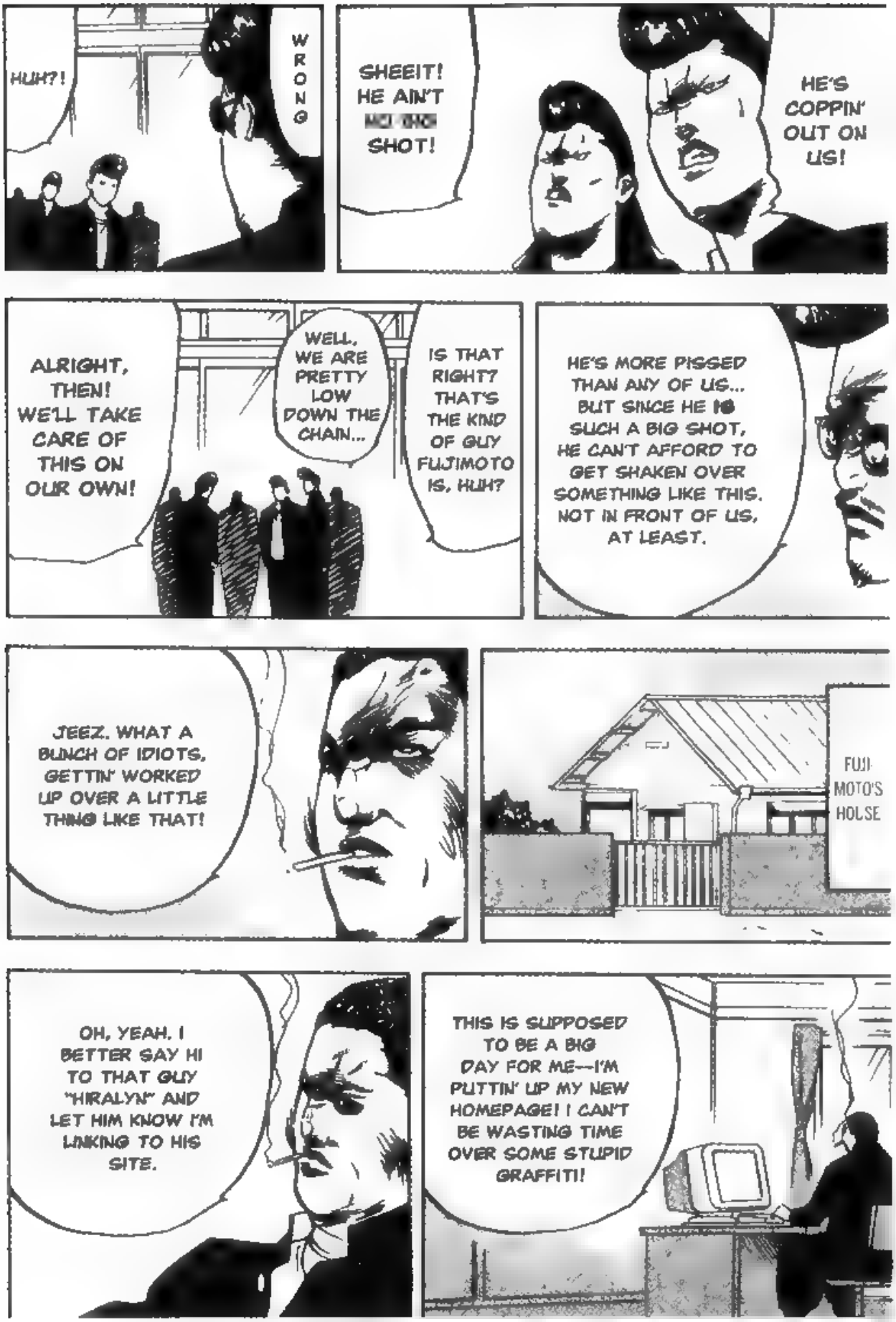
CHAPTER NINETY-FOUR: **KINDNESS TO OTHERS**

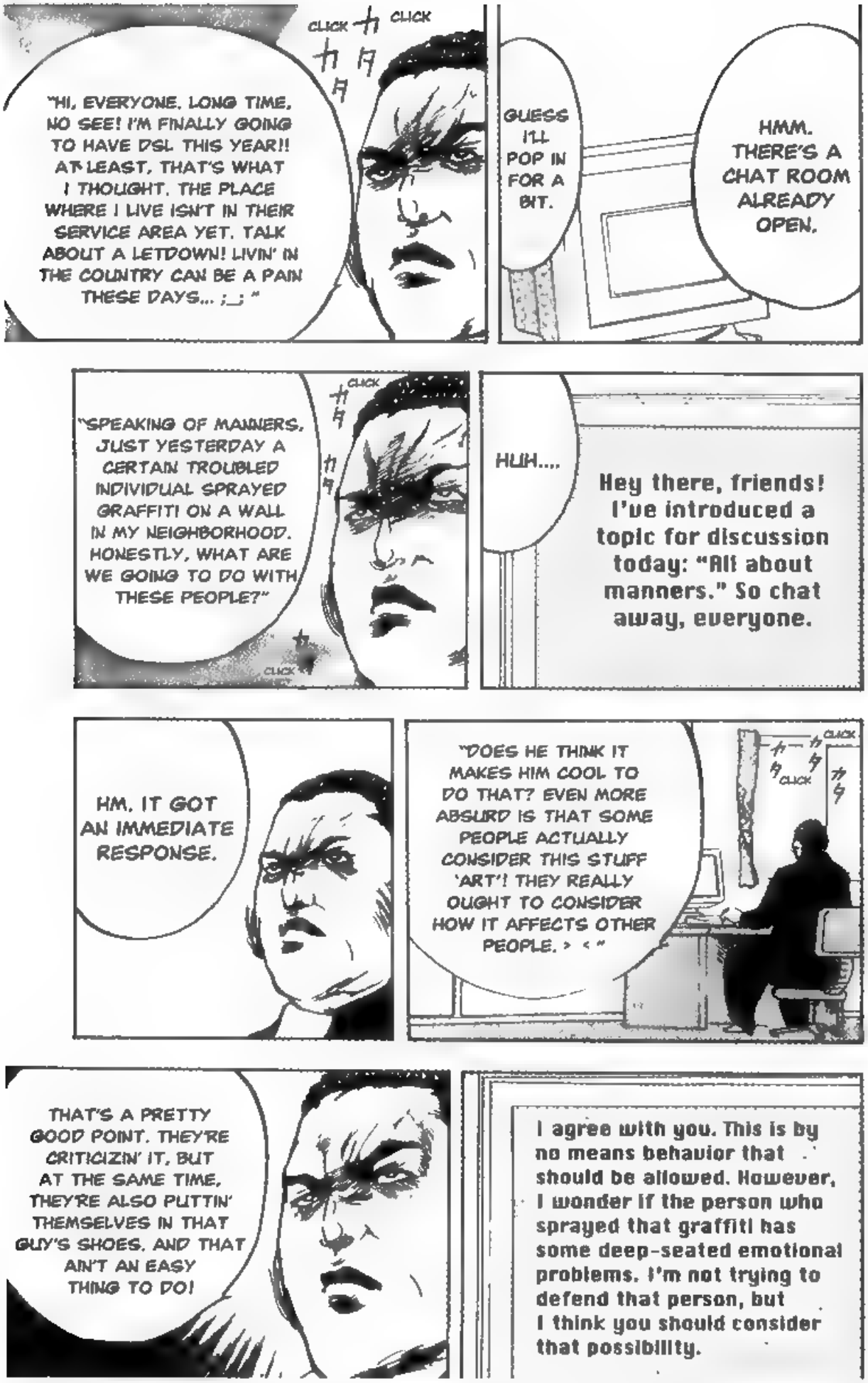
THIS MEANS WAR! WAR, I TELL YA!
YEAH! THEY'RE TOTALLY DISSIN' US!
HEY, DID YOU SEE THAT GRAFFITI ON THE FRONT GATE?
THE NEXT DAY AT MANUEL HIGH SCHOOL


THEY SPRAYED "KAMIYAMA WAS HERE" ON OUR GATE! USUALLY, IT'S THE NAME OF A GANG OR THEIR SCHOOL OR SOMETHIN'. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I SEEN SOMEBODY PUT HIS OWN NAME!

FUJIMOTO! SOME BASTARDS ARE TRYIN' TO PICK A FIGHT WITH OUR SCHOOL!
HM? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
LEADER OF MANUEL'S 1ST YEARS
KIICHI FUJIMOTO




HUH?!
WRONG
SHEEIT! HE AIN'T [redacted] SHOT!
HE'S COPPIN' OUT ON US!
ALRIGHT, THEN! WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS ON OUR OWN!
WELL, WE ARE PRETTY LOW DOWN THE CHAIN...
IS THAT RIGHT? THAT'S THE KIND OF GUY FUJIMOTO IS, HUH?
HE'S MORE PISSED THAN ANY OF US... BUT SINCE HE IS SUCH A BIG SHOT, HE CAN'T AFFORD TO GET SHAKEN OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS. NOT IN FRONT OF US, AT LEAST.
JEEZ. WHAT A BUNCH OF IDIOTS, GETTIN' WORKED UP OVER A LITTLE THING LIKE THAT!
FUJI MOTO'S HOUSE
OH, YEAH. I BETTER SAY HI TO THAT GUY "HIRALYN" AND LET HIM KNOW I'M LINKING TO HIS SITE.
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE A BIG DAY FOR ME--I'M PUTTIN' UP MY NEW HOMEPAGE! I CAN'T BE WASTING TIME OVER SOME STUPID GRAFFITI!

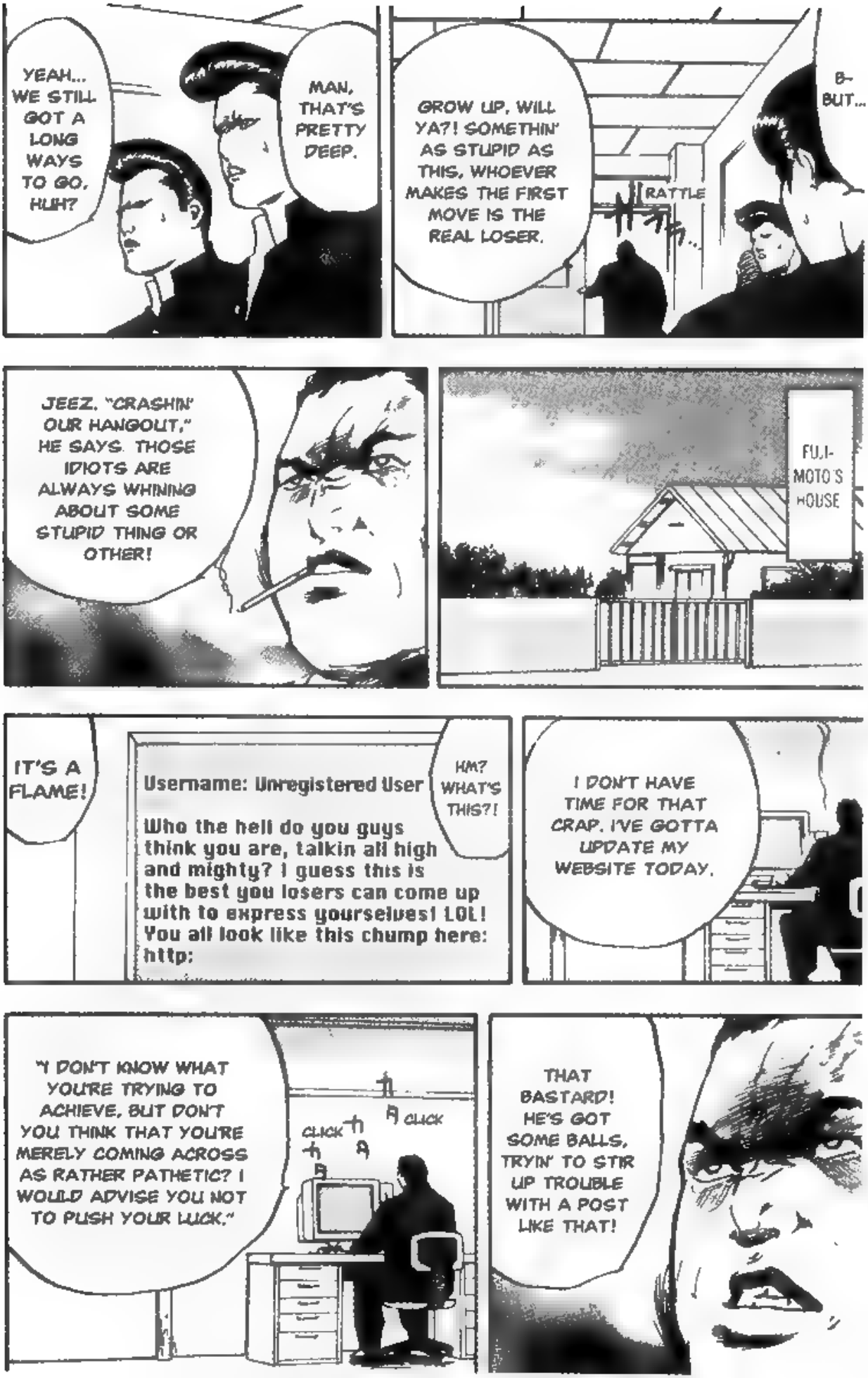

CLICK
CLICK
"HI, EVERYONE. LONG TIME, NO SEE! I'M FINALLY GOING TO HAVE DSL THIS YEAR!! AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT. THE PLACE WHERE I LIVE ISN'T IN THEIR SERVICE AREA YET. TALK ABOUT A LETDOWN! LIVIN' IN THE COUNTRY CAN BE A PAIN THESE DAYS... ;_; "
GUESS I'LL POP IN FOR A BIT.
HMM. THERE'S A CHAT ROOM ALREADY OPEN.
"SPEAKING OF MANNERS, JUST YESTERDAY A CERTAIN TROUBLED INDIVIDUAL SPRAYED GRAFFITI ON A WALL IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD. HONESTLY, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THESE PEOPLE?"
CLICK
CLICK
HUH....
Hey there, friends! I've introduced a topic for discussion today: "All about manners." So chat away, everyone.
HM. IT GOT AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE.
"DOES HE THINK IT MAKES HIM COOL TO DO THAT? EVEN MORE ABSURD IS THAT SOME PEOPLE ACTUALLY CONSIDER THIS STUFF 'ART'! THEY REALLY OUGHT TO CONSIDER HOW IT AFFECTS OTHER PEOPLE. > < "
CLICK
CLICK
THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD POINT. THEY'RE CRITICIZIN' IT, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, THEY'RE ALSO PUTTIN' THEMSELVES IN THAT GUY'S SHOES. AND THAT AIN'T AN EASY THING TO DO!
I agree with you. This is by no means behavior that should be allowed. However, I wonder if the person who sprayed that graffiti has some deep-seated emotional problems. I'm not trying to defend that person, but I think you should consider that possibility.

NICE FOLLOW-UP, KAMIYAMA.

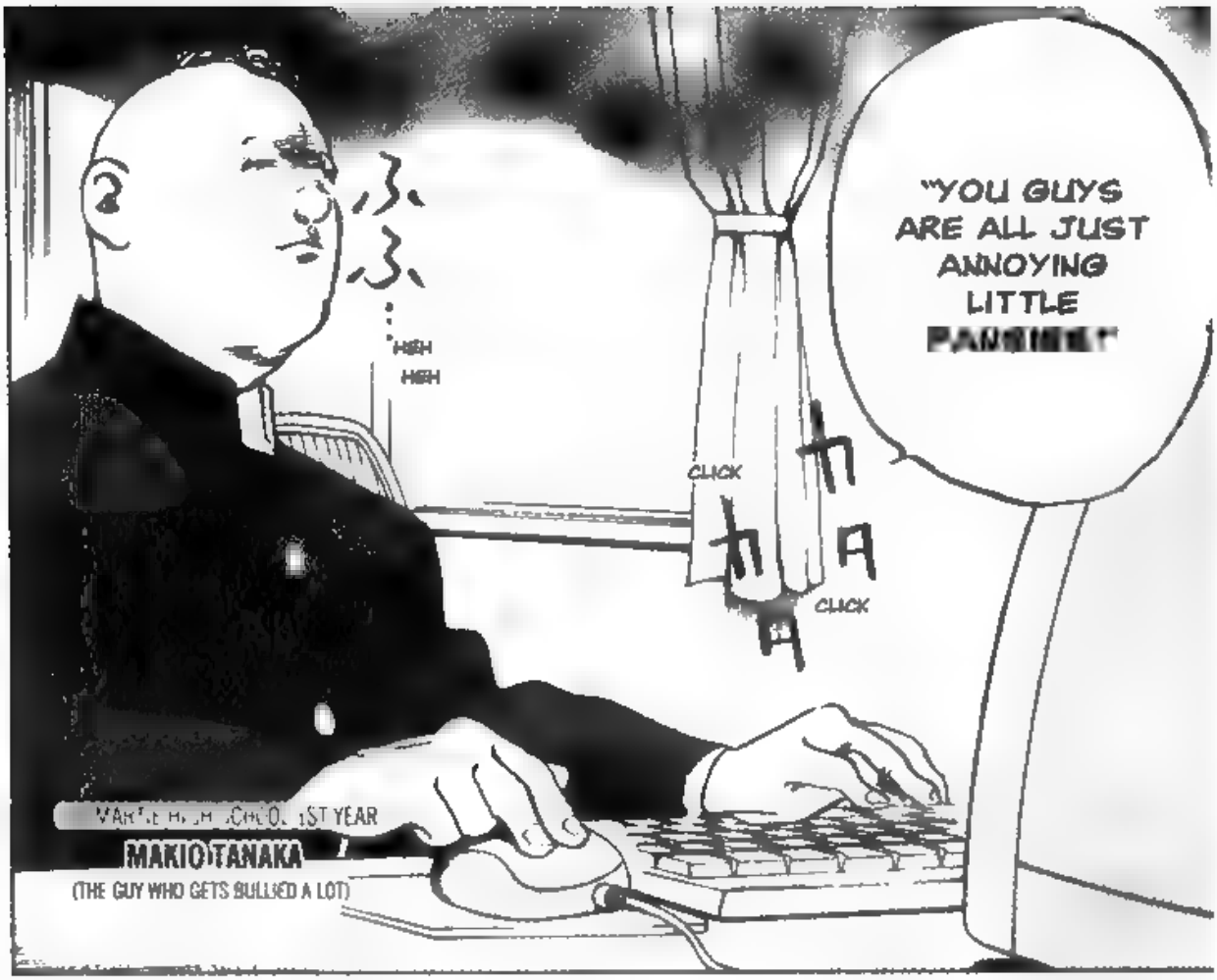
CHAPTER NINETY FIVE. **NET THE GLORY**

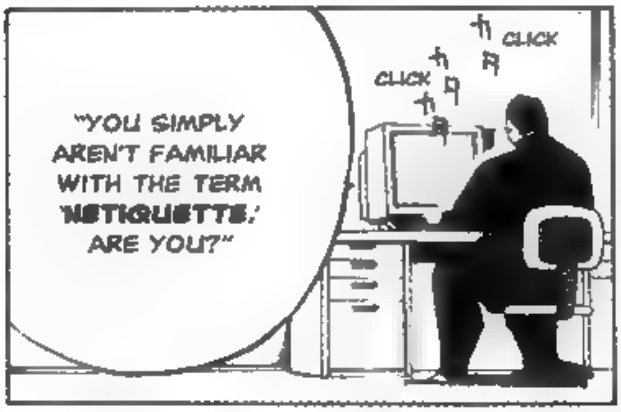
THEY'RE CRASHIN' OUR HANGOUT AGAIN?!
WHAT?!
HEY! SOME OF THE DESTRADE GUYS HAVE BEEN SHOWING UP AT THE 2ND STREET CAFÉ!
MANLEL HIGH SCHOOL

IF YOU GO LOSING IT OVER EVERY LITTLE STUNT THEY PULL, YOU'RE JUST PLAYIN' RIGHT INTO THEIR HANDS!
THOSE GUYS ARE HAVING A BLAST WATCHIN' YOU GET ALL WORKED UP OVER THIS.


YEAH... WE STILL GOT A LONG WAYS TO GO, HUH?
MAN, THAT'S PRETTY DEEP.
GROW UP, WILL YA?! SOMETHIN' AS STUPID AS THIS, WHOEVER MAKES THE FIRST MOVE IS THE REAL LOSER.
RATTLE
B-BUT...
JEEZ. "CRASHIN' OUR HANGOUT," HE SAYS. THOSE IDIOTS ARE ALWAYS WHINING ABOUT SOME STUPID THING OR OTHER!
FUJI-MOTO'S HOUSE
IT'S A FLAME!
Username: Unregistered User
Who the hell do you guys think you are, talkin all high and mighty? I guess this is the best you losers can come up with to express yourselves! LOL! You all look like this chump here: http:
HM? WHAT'S THIS?!
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT CRAP. I'VE GOTTA UPDATE MY WEBSITE TODAY.
"I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO ACHIEVE, BUT DON'T YOU THINK THAT YOU'RE MERELY COMING ACROSS AS RATHER PATHETIC? I WOULD ADVISE YOU NOT TO PUSH YOUR LUCK."
CLICK
CLICK
THAT BASTARD! HE'S GOT SOME BALLS, TRYIN' TO STIR UP TROUBLE WITH A POST LIKE THAT!

HUH?! SATORIN'S ALREADY POSTED A RESPONSE!
SHIT! DOES THIS GUY THINK HE'S GONNA SCARE ME WITH A POST LIKE THAT?! AT THE VERY LEAST, I UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT CGI THAN YOU DO, YOU BASTARD!
HMM. SATORIN CARRIES A LOT OF CLOUT IN THIS FORUM, SO IT'S NOT GOOD TO GET A REPLY LIKE THAT FROM HIM. STILL, THIS IS SOMETHING I'M GOING TO HANDLE MY WAY.
HUH?
Username: Satorin
It's best not to reply to posts like this. Flamers write these things to try and get a rise out of us, and when you reply, you're just playing into their hands. If you don't like what they post, it's best to say nothing and just delete the offending message.
Check it out! It looks like the nerds don't get along so good! LOL! You're all a bunch of children!!!!!1
HUH?!
I DON'T WANT TO ARGUE WITH SATORIN, BUT I CAN'T LET THIS ONE GO.
"DEAR SATORIN. IF I MAY, SIMPLY KEEPING QUIET AND DELETING THE MESSAGE IS AGAINST MY PHILOSOPHY. EVEN IF THE POST IS INSULTING, I STILL THINK IT'S BEST TO TYPE A RESPONSE AND GIVE THE PERSON FAIR WARNING. WHAT DO YOU THINK?"
CLICK
CLICK
HEH
CLICK
CLICK
THE FLAMER
THAT SON OF A BITCH IS ASKING FOR IT!

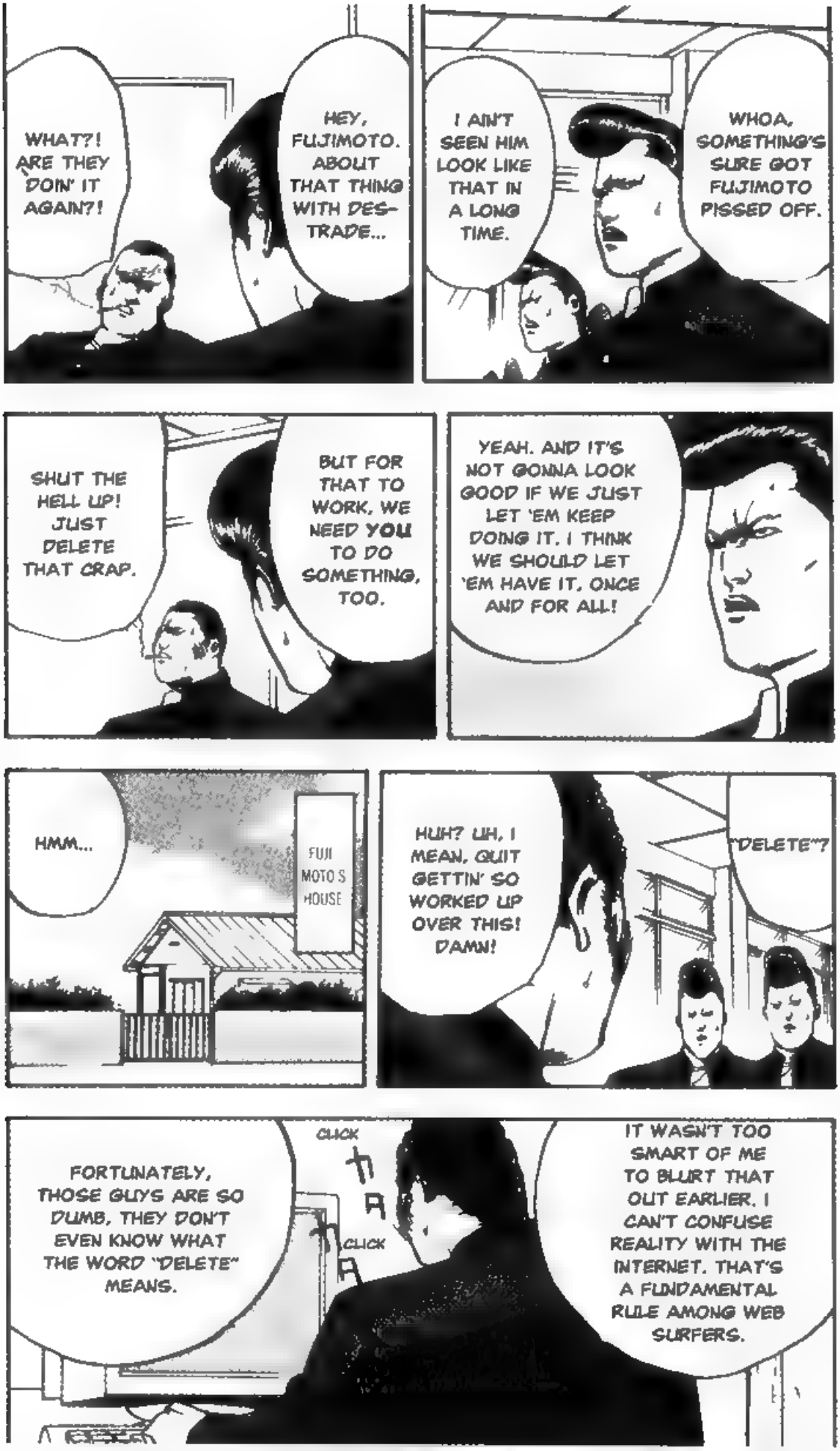

"YOU GUYS ARE ALL JUST ANNOYING LITTLE [illegible]!"
HEH HEH
CLICK
CLICK
MAKIO TANAKA
(THE GUY WHO GETS BULLIED A LOT)


"YOU SIMPLY AREN'T FAMILIAR WITH THE TERM 'NETIQUETTE.' ARE YOU?"
CLICK
CLICK

RGH... THAT SON OF A BITCH JUST DOESN'T GET IT! I'M GONNA HAVE TO TELL HIM WHAT'S WHAT!

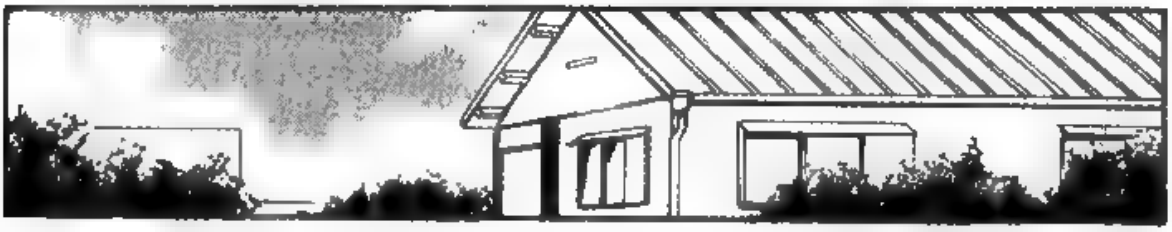
DAMMIT! THIS IS REALLY PISSING ME OFF.

THE NEXT DAY


WHAT?! ARE THEY DOIN' IT AGAIN?!
HEY, FUJIMOTO. ABOUT THAT THING WITH DES-TRADE...
I AIN'T SEEN HIM LOOK LIKE THAT IN A LONG TIME.
WHOA. SOMETHING'S SURE GOT FUJIMOTO PISSED OFF.
SHUT THE HELL UP! JUST DELETE THAT CRAP.
BUT FOR THAT TO WORK, WE NEED YOU TO DO SOMETHING, TOO.
YEAH. AND IT'S NOT GONNA LOOK GOOD IF WE JUST LET 'EM KEEP DOING IT. I THINK WE SHOULD LET 'EM HAVE IT, ONCE AND FOR ALL!
HMM...
FUJI MOTO'S HOUSE
HUH? UH, I MEAN, QUIT GETTIN' SO WORKED UP OVER THIS! D'AMN!
"DELETE"?
FORTUNATELY, THOSE GUYS ARE SO DUMB, THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THE WORD "DELETE" MEANS.
CLICK
CLICK
IT WASN'T TOO SMART OF ME TO BLURT THAT OUT EARLIER. I CAN'T CONFUSE REALITY WITH THE INTERNET. THAT'S A FUNDAMENTAL RULE AMONG WEB SURFERS.

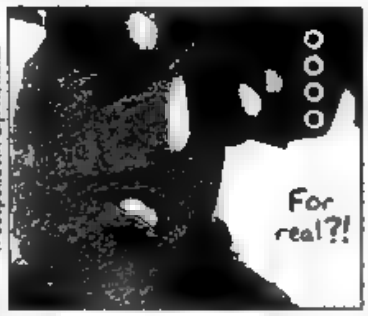
MY OWN LITTLE KINGDOM? WHERE THE HELL ARE YOU GETTIN' YOUR INFORMATION, BUDDY?!
HE DID IT AGAIN!
Username: Unregistered user
By the way, you must be very proud of yourself for making your own little kingdom here. Is your life that meaningless or what?
GRH
OK, IT'S TIME TO DEAL THIS GUY THE FINISHING BLOW!
FLAMING THESE MORONS SURE IS FUN!
CLICK
CLICK
HA!
You're a shut-in, aren't you?
HUH?!
"I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN BY SAYING I'VE TURNED THIS HOMEPAGE INTO MY 'OWN LITTLE KINGDOM,' BUT THERE'S ONE THING I CAN SAY, AND THAT IS..."
CLICK
IT'S LIKE I'M BEING SPIED ON OR SOMETHING...
CRAP. I GET THE FEELING HE MIGHT BE RIGHT.
"SHUT-IN." IN INTERNET CIRCLES, IT MEANS A PERSON WHO STAYS MOSTLY INDOORS, WITHDRAWN FROM SOCIETY AND INTERACTING SOLELY ONLINE.
A Dictionary of Internet Terminology

AH, WHAT A GREAT DAY! I THINK I'LL HANG AROUND HERE IN AKIHABARA FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
OH, WELL. LOOKS LIKE I'M GONNA HAVE TO GO OUTSIDE FOR A BIT.
I JUST CAN'T FIND A WAY TO GET BACK AT HIM.
DAMN! WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS. THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT, EITHER.
THERE SEEM TO MORE NEWBS THAN USUAL AROUND HERE LATELY. I WISH PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW HOW TO BUILD THEIR OWN COMPUTERS WOULDN'T COME HERE!
THAT SON OF A BITCH! HE'S GOT ME SO PISSED OFF, I ACCIDENTALLY BOUGHT A MAC MO DISK FOR MY WINDOWS MACHINE!
OH, SORRY ABOUT TH--
OUCH!
SWAP



TANAKA, THE INTERNET THUG, HAS FALLEN.

VOLUME 4 ★ THE END



A despondent Eiji Nonaka

Eiji Nonaka denied Shogakukan Manga Award!

SHOCKING!

Author beside himself with grief!

Incidentally he is published by Kodansha.

Nonaka shoots back, "Don't call me an underdog!"

One of the nominees for the Shogakukan Manga Awards, the results for which were decided several days ago, was Eiji Nonaka's 'Cromartie High School.'

The shocking truth, however, has now come to light through oversight (or, rather, as one would reasonably expect) Nonaka was unable to win this coveted prize. All concerned were unable to hide their disappointment.

Said Mr. Nawata, a representative of the Shogakukan publishing company, "It's too bad you weren't awarded the prize. I'm an avid reader of your manga. It sure is funny, isn't it? I really think it's a shame you didn't win."

Upon receiving this rather cheerfully delivered news via telephone, Nonaka's editor responded with, "Oh, is that right? I see. Well, I thought as much!" The pleasant demeanor of his reply was more than a little reminiscent of a comedy skit. After hanging up, he is said to have hung his head in self loathing.

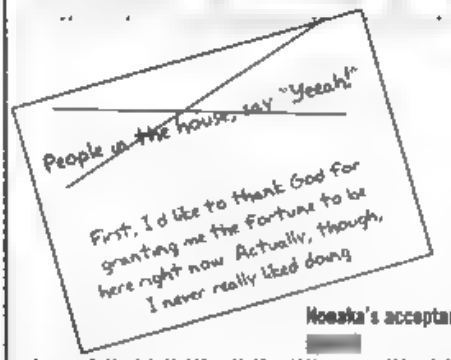
The suit Nonaka had planned to wear to the awards

Word of the nomination of "Cromartie High School" for the award was received toward the end of last year and had filled both Nonaka and his editor with delight. The two had mistakenly believed that nomination was tantamount to actually winning the prize, and had gone so far as to buy brand-new suits in preparation for the award ceremony. In retrospect, the two could not possibly regret the hastiness of their actions more than they already do.

クロマティ高校校内新聞

THE CROMARTIE GAZETTE

Published By The Cromartie Newspaper Club


People in the house, say "yeeah!"
First, I'd like to thank God for granting me the fortune to be here right now. Actually, though, I never really liked doing
Nonaka's acceptance

Unfortunately, not only had Nonaka contacted all his relatives about the prize, he had rashly chosen to prepare an acceptance speech (having seemingly planned to win an Academy Award). This tragic incident is seen to have stemmed from the fact that Nonaka and his editor have received next to no praise for their work. Upon hearing of their rejection, the two men became involved in several heated arguments over who should take responsibility. They are currently on very poor terms, and rumor has it that continuation of Nonaka's manga is at this point out of the question.

We got the feeling that a manga like this couldn't really have been expected to win...

Incidentally, the recipient of the Youth Category award was Ms. Rumiko Takahashi, for her manga "Inu Yasha." Many are of the opinion that right from the start, "Inu Yasha" vs. a certain underdog manga title was in fact no contest at all. Congratulations, Ms. Takahashi!

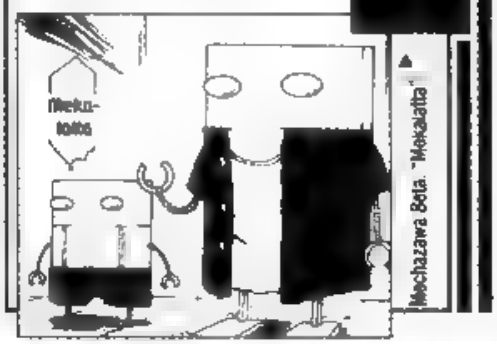
CHILDREN AT CROMARTIE?! BROTHERLY LOVE MEETS SCHOOL REGULATIONS

A few days ago, there was something of an outcry when it was learned that a child has been entering and leaving our school grounds. The child's name is Mechazawa Beta,

and he is the younger brother of 1st-year student Shinichi Mechazawa. The two brothers get along famously, and more than a few Cromartie students have elected to get involved with their charming capers. However, while our school prides itself on the open-mindedness of its policies,

the decision to bring one's younger brother to school has become a matter of concern

"The kid's so small that I'm worried someone might step on him," comments Akira Maeda, a 1st-year student. "And that ain't the real problem here, either!"



▲ Mechazawa Beta: "Mekakatta"

Nonaka Lashes out After Award Snub "If that's the way it is, I'll just make my own award!"

Introducing the Eiji Nonaka Award!

Distraught after his recent failed bid for the Shogakukan Manga Award, Eiji Nonaka and his editor conducted a careful investigation into how one goes about winning such a prize. His findings led him

to a single conclusion: --why not make his own award, to present to whomever he pleases? Mr. Nonaka has since voiced his intention to go ahead with this award, which he has dubbed the Eiji Nonaka Award, and wonders why he didn't think of the idea sooner. The award will be conferred upon athletes who maintain productive careers in Japan while simultaneously making outstanding contributions to society.

Presentation of the Eiji Nonaka Award will be managed jointly by Mr. Nonaka and the Eiji Nonaka Award Committee starting

this year. It has also been decided that the recipient of the glorious 2001 award shall be Toshihisa Nishi of the Tokyo Giants baseball team. As a bonus prize, Mr. Nishi will be sent a

complimentary signed copy of all volumes (i.e., four of 'em) of "Cromartie High School"!

The Committee looks forward to Mr. Nishi's reply.

Poor, depressed Eiji Nonaka. Retailers are trying desperately to get rid of "Cromartie High School" Vols. 1-4, so please take a few copies off their hands! And let's support Mr. Nonaka's other works like "Kacho Baka Ichidai: Kodomoyo," too!

Cromartie Student Submissions Corner

Calling All Poets!

Title: "I can't help it"

Sure, I can just say, "It came to me." But I get the feeling that if I keep this up, the day will come when someone—yes, someone—will be really ticked off at me. But I'm gonna do it anyway.

Pen name: Supervisor

[Comment: Does an excellent job of expressing regret and uncertainty.]

In place of any sort of afterword...

Learn a little about Nona!

EIJI NONAKA: The Manly Survey

	Question	Answer
1	Something you've wanted to try recently	Quit smoking.
2	Something sad that happened to you recently	A bike I hadn't used for a while got all rusty (and lost the air in its tires).
3	Something that made you happy recently	I put air back in the tires.
4	What you've been eating recently	Udon, ramen, fried rice, ham & egg lunch set
5	Books you've read recently	I don't read.
6	A movie you like	Juggernaut
7	Performers you like	Ryumon Yamato
8	What you think about this manga	Not much.

Signature のなかえいじ

(Eiji Nonaka)

CROMARTIE HIGH SCHOOL VOLUME FOUR

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First published in Japan in 2002 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo
English translation rights for this edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd.

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is a division of A.D. Vision, Inc.
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ISBN: 1-4139-0260-x
First printing, October 2005
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
Printed in Canada

TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

Cromartie High School Vol. 04

P. 01

Magazine cover

In Japan, *Cromartie High School* is published in the popular *Shonen Magazine*. For this volume, author Eiji Nonaka did a send-up of a *Shonen*-style cover, but with a uniquely *Cromartie* flair. The (many) text elements appearing on the cover are translated as follows:

- *Shonen Magazine Weekly*, No. 49
- Hop step magazine! Forget about it!
- "I wanna see your face!" This week's photo layout presents Masked Takenouchi!
- The heart-wrenching final installment! (Aah, who cares?) – "Tomorrow, Be The Gorilla!"
- The thrilling climax! And still no dialogue! – "Freddie and the High School for Lifers"!
- Readers begone! Four desperate attempts in serialization: "Hayashida and the Lullaby," "I am Made of Iron," "Hokuto and Love" and "Here Comes Takenouchi."
- "Flyin' Beta!"
- "Tough Guy Kamiyama!"
- "Beloved Pootan!"
- "Love Nona!"
- Popular fist to the face of appreciation, Part 2: "For a few Yamaguchis More"
- Plumbing the depths – No motivation! Not even on this cover!
- *Cromartie High School 4*: The "outside of regular continuity" volume, by Eiji Nonaka. Featuring a dynamic, thoroughly dejected new serial!
- "I ain't wrong, you know!" "THE MAEDA BLUES"!

P. 11

Zaibatsu

The *zaibatsu* are large Japanese conglomerates, the origins of which go back hundreds of years. These companies gained considerable social and political power, especially in the early 1900s, and many of them exist to this day. The supposed "big four" of the *zaibatsu* are Mitsubishi, Mitsui, Sumitomo and Yasuda (but don't tell that to The Hokuto Foundation).

P. 20

(1) Buffaloes and baseball

Until recently, the Buffaloes (or Osaka Kintetsu Buffaloes, to call them by their full name) were owned by the Kintentsu Corporation. They were sold in 2004 to the ORIX Group, and later merged with ORIX Blue Waves to form the ORIX Buffaloes.

(2) Views from the Trains of the World

This series of quarterly (or so) specials broadcast on TV Asahi featured--much as the title would suggest--scenes of locales that trains pass through.

P. 24

Lottery

The specific type of lottery that Kamiyama makes use of here is an ***amidakuji***, wherein a vertical line is drawn for each participant, and the goal (or prize) written at the bottom. Horizontal lines are drawn connecting each vertical line, and then each participant takes turns inserting an additional horizontal line. Once completed, the participants trace the line corresponding to their name, turning at each horizontal line, until having reached the bottom (and the goal).

Continued...

P 77

Makiko Tanaka

The opinionated and outspoken Ms. Tanaka was Japan's first female foreign minister. She held the post for just under a year, until her sharp criticism of Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi led to her being fired from the cabinet. She was later ejected from the Liberal Democratic Party, and barred from rejoining for a period of two years.

P 91

The Tracks go Ever, Ever on

In Japanese, *Senro ga Tsuzuku yo, Doko Made mo*. This is the first line of a ditty that often plays when trains are pulling in to major stations...and that is set to the tune of "I've Been Workin' on the Railroad."

P 91

The class trip

As Kamiyama correctly points out, high school students in Japan embark on a *single* school trip. For some reason, however, this rule doesn't apply to the badasses at Cromartie.

P 99

Yuri Gagarin

This Russian cosmonaut was the first man in space (April 12, 1961).

P 42

Pavilions golden and silver

The temple of the golden pavilion, or Kinkakuji, is one of Kyoto's major tourist attractions. A few years after its construction, it was used as the template for Ginkakuji, another temple located in Kyoto's Higashiyama district.

P 44

All that glitters...

Hayashida's idea that one can win prizes at the pavilions stems from his misunderstanding of the component parts of the temples' names: ***kin*** means "gold" and ***gin*** means "silver," while ***kaku*** is "tower/palace" and ***ji*** means "temple." Hayashida got the gold and silver parts correct, but thought that ***kakuji*** was actually ***ka*** ("goods/property") and ***kuji*** ("lottery"). Which shouldn't be too surprising for a man that thought the last name "Hagiwara" should be read "Hagigen."

P 72

Toshiyuki Nishida

A famous comic actor who began his career in the 1970s. He gained international fame for his portrayal of Pigsy/Chohakkai in the television series *Monkey* (Japanese title: *Saiyuki*), and in the 1980s, he starred as Densuke Hamazaki in the theatrical adaptation of the manga *Tsuri Baka Nisshi* (International title: "Free and Easy"). The film was such a hit that it has spun off no less than *sixteen* additional films, and keeps Nishida busy to this day.

P 105

The Yamanote line

The Yamanote-sen, as it is also known, is one of Tokyo's major train lines. It makes an ovular loop around the central wards of Tokyo.

P 110

Police box

The police box (or ***koban***) is a kind of neighborhood police station. Each is assigned a complement of 12 or so officers who patrol the surrounding streets and lend assistance as needed.

P 111

Akihabara

The Akihabara district of Tokyo is an electronics paradise, a dense marketplace of vendors selling anything from cameras to PCs to anime.